SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO THE ENJOYMENT OF A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE REPORT ON “WOMEN, GIRLS AND THE RIGHT TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT”

**Coordinated and consolidated by:**

Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

**Countries:**

* **Pakistan**

Contributing national partner organisations of ARROW:

* Shelter Participatory Organisation
* Rural Development Foundation (RDF)
* Centre for Social Policy Development (CSPD)
* Gravity Development Organization
* **The Philippines**

Contributing national partner organisations of ARROW:

* Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia,
* Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities
* PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc (PFPI)

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**Call for inputs: Women, Girls and the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment**

**Response to Questionnaire**

**1. How are the climate, pollution, and biodiversity crises adversely impacting women and girls? What are the principal barriers facing these rightsholders’ realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a right that includes: clean air; a safe climate; access to safe water and adequate sanitation; healthy and sustainably produced food; non-toxic environments in which to live, work, study and play; healthy biodiversity and ecosystems; access to environmental and climate information; participation in environmental and climate decision-making processes; access to justice and an affective remedy when the aforementioned rights are violated.**

Climate change disproportionately impacts women and girls in all their diversities. As the environment deteriorates and worsens, the health and well-being of women and girls are more exposed to viruses and bacteria that can cause infection and diseases. Slow onset events such as sea level rise, changes in rainfall and temperature, associated with hazards such as flooding, saltwater intrusion, dry spell associated with the decreasing soil moisture of agricultural lands and drying water sources as well as the occurrence of tropical cyclones (TCs) accompanied by flooding, strong winds, and storm surges are some of the direct climate-related impacts that communities in the Philippines are experiencing. While these factors can be attributed to changes in the local climate, various compounding factors exist that continue to aggravate the socioeconomic and human security factors which are an indirect impact of climate change to women and girls. Due to gender-specific barriers and inequalities, women experience higher loss of lives and livelihoods during disasters and a longer recovery time. Across the board, from life expectancy to education, housing, health, safety, job security, and nutrition, women and girls are impacted more severely than men.

In Pakistan, the Sindh province remains most vulnerable to climate events including flash floods and cyclones. Women and girls during climate events lack access to sanitation services, lack access to clean water and experience sexual and gender based violence, denial to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and are the last one to receive food and shelter. The education of women and young girls are also impacted as the patriarchal structure in Sindh province demands women and girls to take responsibilities of domestic activities. Women living in rural areas of Sindh tend to feel the impacts of climate change more aggressively due to their assigned traditional gender roles and responsibilities. Being solely accountable for essential domestic tasks makes women highly dependent on depleting natural resources like water and firewood.

Early, child and forced marriages, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as care burden at the household level increases during climate crisis. This is as families consider marrying their girl children as a coping strategy due to the financial distress of local communities when extreme weather events destroy livelihoods. In Bangladesh, families practise child marriage among their young daughters as means to escape poverty brought about by climate crises[[1]](#footnote-1).

In Nepal, the increasing workload in the household and economic hardship experienced by the family when climate extreme events happen would cause parents to withdraw their daughters from schools so that they could either help out at home or on the farm, or to find a job to supplement the household income. Oftentimes, young girls are among the first to be affected to the extent that they are forced to drop out of school, limiting their access to information including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and hinders their empowerment. The access to CSE becomes non-existent in the context of climate crises with the rise in girls dropping out of school and any other information education platform[[2]](#footnote-2).

The lack of proper waste management and disposal systems lead to the continuing use of pesticides and the open dumping of coal ash from power plants. This puts women and girls, and pregnant people at risk of respiratory problems, skin diseases, cancer, malnutrition, anemia, dengue, etc. In addition to this, the lack of supply of clean water due to drought or flooding are also a challenge for people who are menstruating or pregnant, making them vulnerable to infection, miscarriages and perinatal mortality. Exposure to air pollution, heat waves and other effects of climate change can disrupt the health of pregnant women and developing fetuses, causing adverse pregnancy outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, and increased neonatal mortality, while asthma, allergic diseases, skin cancers, and other respiratory distress are prevalent among young people.

Women and girls in all their diversities are more vulnerable to sexual abuse, human trafficking, and gender-based violence in cramped evacuation centers that lack consideration of their sexual and reproductive health and rights. During the onslaught of climate-related disasters, women and girls have limited to no access to healthcare including sexual and reproductive health services. Similarly, participation of women and girls in the climate change policy making and decision making process is neglected by stakeholders including government, policy makers, legislators and media which becomes a prime reason for lack of essential health service delivery including SRHR during climate events, disasters, floods and cyclones. Similarly, scarcity of nutritional food affects the physical and reproductive health wellbeing. Human rights, access to a sustainable environment and access to adequate sanitation are violated for women and girls in the climate crisis in Sindh province and an increase in child marriages is observed during climate events and crises.

Women often have limited rights compared to men, especially in some Asian countries, such as limited mobility and less access than men to resources, information, and decision-making authorities. Consequently, they are significantly more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have fewer capacities to adapt and diversify their livelihood options. Scarcity of nutritional food affects the physical and reproductive health wellbeing. While women and girls are completely involved in production and management of food, from farmlands to households, the majority experience malnourishment.

Despite the adverse effects of the climate crisis on women and girls in all their diversities, especially their SRHR, women’s health is barely included in the national climate change adaptation policies[[3]](#footnote-3). Prevailing insensitivity about gender-just climate solutions excludes women and girls in all their diversities in decision making and climate justice discourse.

**2. What are the specific obligations of States and responsibilities of businesses in terms of adopting a gender-responsive approach to protecting (for States) and respecting (for businesses) women’s and girls’ rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment? Please provide specific examples of constitutional provisions, legislation, institutions, regulations, standards, jurisprudence, policies and programs that apply a gender-responsive approach to ensuring the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.**

Governments should adopt a gender specific plan of action while drafting a climate change policy, Disaster Risk reduction programme and approaches. NAPs and NDCs should include SRHR in their approaches and have to be supported by adequate budget allocation for the implementation of the plans. A multi sectoral approach should be adopted where all relevant departments and ministries work with harmony and mutual understanding such as agriculture, environment department, education, women development department, public health and WASH.

The Philippines has enacted progressive laws and policies to address violence against women and girls as well as an enabling environment for decision-making, capacity-building, and upholding basic human rights. Laws such as the Violence Against Women and Children Act, Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, Reproductive health law, and the Magna Carta of Women, among others, are incorporated in the policy development strategies of the national and local governments[[4]](#footnote-4). On the other hand, the Climate Change Act of 2009 declared it a policy of the State to incorporate a gender-sensitive, pro-children and pro-poor perspective into all climate change and renewable energy efforts, plans, and programs[[5]](#footnote-5).

Pakistan is ranked among top five most vulnerable countries to the widespread impacts of climate change[[6]](#footnote-6) but the women and girls, who have practical knowledge and skills of natural resource management, are excluded from the decision-making processes on climate change and environmental protection. The Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017 categorically mentions that women, children and girls are the first priority in service delivery during a climate crisis but there is a lack of implementation of the law as women and girls are most vulnerable during climate crises and are denied their basic health services. Pakistan does not have gender just climate solutions. The country recently experienced devastating floods in August 2022 and according to reports of some international agencies, around 73,000 women were expected to give birth that month, who would have needed skilled birth attendants, newborn care, and support. It estimated that almost 650,000 pregnant women in flood-affected areas required maternal health services to ensure a safe pregnancy and childbirth[[7]](#footnote-7). However, hospitals and health workers were focused on waterborne diseases and other ailments rather than SRHR of women and young girls[[8]](#footnote-8). Humanitarian aid scarcely included sanitary pads and contraception, to protect the health and hygiene of women and girls. However, there was also severe criticism and backlash from conservative religious groups towards these provisions.

In July 2022, the Pakistani Ministry of Climate Change chalked out a roadmap for incorporation of gender equality and women’s empowerment with climate change discourse and environmental protection plan. The said roadmap with the name of “Climate Change Gender Action Plan” will be introduced for the first time with the support of IUCN and Green Climate Fund[[9]](#footnote-9).

**3. If your State is one of the 156 UN Member States that recognizes the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in law, has this right been recognized and/or interpreted in a way that clarifies the state’s obligations or businesses’ responsibilities with respect to the realization of rights with no discrimination based on sex and gender and other grounds?**

The Gender Equality and Womenʼs Empowerment (GEWE) Plan[[10]](#footnote-10) of the Philippines are strategically incorporated in the Philippine Development Plan as part of addressing the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in line with the Philippinesʼ human development goals and the greater Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These nation-level obligations of the state are mainstreamed in the local development policies and programs of local governments to ensure that rights for human security are in place and implemented. Other gender policies in the Philippines, when violated, are punishable by Law. For Instance, the Republic Act 11313 or the Safe Space Act covers all forms of gender-based sexual harassment in public and private spaces[[11]](#footnote-11).

Pakistan voted for the resolution in UNGA on July 29, 2022 and announced its support for the right to access a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. However, the aspects of gender and sex are, once again, missing from its official statement[[12]](#footnote-12). The country also has the Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017, which clarifies the obligations of state and different stakeholders in ensuring non-discriminatory service delivery for people of different sex and gender. However, no effort was made to increase the awareness of its existence. Hence, access to services for women, girls and transgender persons during climate crisis is denied due to the lack of implementation of state obligations. Women, girls and transgender persons are unable to access sanitation services and family planning services as these are considered non-essential services during climate disasters.

**4. What steps has your State, business, and/or organization taken to employ agender-responsive, rights-based approach to addressing the impacts of the climate,biodiversity and pollution crises and to accelerate gender equality related to environmental decision-making processes, benefit-sharing processes, and outcomes? Please identify specific challenges that your Government, business, or organization has faced in these endeavours.**

Clear guidelines and gender policies are required to eliminate gender discrimination at all levels. The Climate Change Commission, the Philippines Commission on Women are the key policy oversight agencies of the Philippine government to ensure these laws and policies are incorporated in the Gender and Development (GAD) programs and Climate Change Adaptation Plans of both the national and local governments and the Nationally Determined Contribution. Particularly by strengthening gender-based approaches in the formulation and implementation of climate change policies, plans, programs, and activities in the country, including the generation of sex-disaggregated data and conduct of gender analysis[[13]](#footnote-13).

Discussion on climate change is usually categorised under the environment sector and discussed in the lens of disaster risk reduction and management.

In Pakistan, there are no participation of women, girls and transgender persons in the climate change policy making and decision making process. Some local organisations have taken initiatives to raise awareness among women, girls and transgender persons on negative implications of climate change on reproductive health and family planning services and for this purpose, different interventions have been adopted including folklore singers engagement, academia engagement and other stakeholders dialogue. This is in addition to undertaking advocacy at the grassroots level to improve participation of women and girls in the climate change policy making and decision making process and include access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in the existing climate change policy making in Sindh province.

**5. Please identify specific ways in which the rights of particularly marginalized or vulnerable women and/or LGBTI persons are (or should be) recognized and protected to enable the realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment without discrimination based on sex or gender. "Marginalized women" include girls; women and girls in Indigenous local community, Afro-descendant and peasant communities, older women; differently abled women and girls, LGBTI women and girls, migrant, displaced, and refuge women and girls, unmarried, informally married and widowed women and women and girls living in protracted armed conflict. How can these populations be empowered to increase their impact as agents of positive environmental transformation?**

The term “equity” is commonly used in climate and advocacy circles It is also a term cited in Article 3 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) highlighting that “the Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities''. Equity is present in the call for climate justice when all systems work on inclusive solutions that respect the rights of all individuals. Proactive policies in the Philippines, mentioned above, have less value if not integral to our climate policies, programs, and strategies. The term gender is also used to define only women in many climate related discussions at all levels which also ignores the intersecting forms of identities and the diversities in gender. Marginalised women and girls, the LGBTQIA community, and Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities know what it means to be underrepresented and should have an equal voice in decision-making even in the smallest organizations and communities so that climate policies formulated can reflect genuine equity and not merely tokenism[[14]](#footnote-14).

Ensuring the right to contraception of all who need this service by removing barriers and enabling their choice not only meets their needs but also facilitates their autonomy and resilience. Enabling women’s rights to own land, have access to resources, and increase their capacities in farming/agriculture has been shown to result in building resilient farm households, agricultural communities and food systems. The non-passage of the SOGIE Bill in the Philippine Congress prevents the equal participation and recognition of the LGBTQIA community in the realization of their rights to a clean, healthy environment and sustainable development.

The Pakistani constitution does not recognise the sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexuality as one’s rights and discrimination is widespread on the basis of sexual identity. However, some fundamental rights are guaranteed in the constitution, in order to provide safety, security and wellbeing, as citizens of the state.

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The Sindh province has a patriarchal society which is governed by religious fundamentalisms, which means that tolerance towards the transgender and LGBTI communites is low. During climate crisis, the LGBTI community is the most vulnerable due to the least support received, despite being the first to be impacted.

The Federal Climate Change Ministry, National Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Authority need to prioritise the most marginalised, especially women, girls and transgender persons especially for access to services and healthcare including sexual and reproductive health services, access to safe and clean water, as well as to shelter and food, which can pave way for empowering of these groups and can lead to inclusive environmental transformation. There is also a dire need to mobilise marginalised communities including sexual minorities, women and girls, to build a large-scale movement to advocate for the recognition of their rights.

**6. What kinds of socioeconomic, cultural, legal, and/or institutional transformations would be required within your States’ national context to achieve gender parity that most directly impact environmental decision-making processes, benefit-sharing processes, and outcomes?**

A multidimensional strategy is required for legal, cultural and institutional reforms. Since media (print, electronic and social media) has become a powerful tool, for opinion-making and attitudinal change, therefore, a massive campaign is needed to bring the attention of stakeholders (rights-holders & duty-bearers) towards the existing gender disparity and its outcomes, in the contexts of climate change adaptation policies and environmental protection plans.

ARROW’s studies have found that when vital infrastructure, such as clinics and highways, are disintegrated by extreme weather events, especially with floods and landslides, the access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services is obstructed, leading to negative SRH outcomes. Limited or unavailable services in areas affected by climate-related disasters, meaning access to services like contraception, safe abortion care, and STI testing and treatment is blocked. These services are not prioritised in the emergency responses. For girls and women who are displaced and living in humanitarian settings, lack of access to SRH services is the leading cause of death. The fullfilment of sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in all their diversities has a direct impact on their autonomy and resilience in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. There is need for policies and laws that ensure accessibility to health services including sexual and reproductive health services during climate crisis, for the most vulnerable especially women, girls and transgender persons. Similarly, there is need to increase the awareness at all levels, on the negative implications of climate change on women, girls and transgender persons. This is in addition to the need for a federal level framework for non-discriminative service access for the LGBTI community.

It is also crucial that decision making spaces at all levels, including planning, developing and implementing, are inclusive and diverse to ensure representation of all communities and constituents.

**7. To what extent do the environmental ministries, nationally determined contributions, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans of your State include gender action plans, gender-responsive budgets or budgets specifically devoted to gender equality? At the global level, what changes to climate and biodiversity finance mechanisms are needed to ensure that these are gender-responsive and equitably inclusive of female beneficiaries?**

The Gender and Development (GAD) budgeting policy of the Philippines mandated national and local governments to plan and dedicate an earmarked budget for GAD-related initiatives focused on gender advocacy and commitment to womenʼs empowerment[[15]](#footnote-15). However, due to the siloed approach of policies and plans, the GAD funding doesnʼt necessarily is being allocated for climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

In terms of international finance, a study conducted by Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD) Inc. and CARE in the Philippines focused on tracking climate finance in the Philippines covering 18 financial flows from 2013-2017, the 10 largest projects tagged as climate relevant in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Developmentʼs Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) database, and the 8 largest projects that are intuitively related to adaptation, mostly from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). One of the key findings highlights that gender equality is not a key objective of the different adaptation-related projects. Vulnerability assessments lack gender analyses and therefore result in projects with limited transformative potential in terms of gender equality and empowerment[[16]](#footnote-16).

The National Climate Change Ministry in Pakistan does not have a functioning action plan for gender responsive budgets and therefore, women, girls and transgender persons remains exclusive of the project benefits. There is a high need to develop national level framework for gender inclusive budgeting that ensures equal participation of women and girls and ensures that equal amount of resources are provided to women, girls and transgender persons during climate crisis. However, there is a National Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), which is designed to enhance the knowledge and capacities of Ministry of Climate Change in institutional mechanism and mainstreaming gender in GCF (Green Climate Fund) funded projects, for identification of gaps and creation of enabling environment for coordination and actions to promulgate gender- responsive strategies, for achieving the objectives[[17]](#footnote-17).

**8. How can businesses best contribute to the realization of the right to a clean,healthy and sustainable environment, based on sex and gender? What policies or practices are already in place to ensure that business activities identify, assess, prevent,cease, mitigate, and effectively remedy adverse impacts to women’s and girls’ rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as articulated in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.**

There are various business organisations that are organised to address the impact of business to the environment, such as the Philippine Business for the Environment (PBE) and Philippine Business for the Environment Stewardship (PBest). The Renewable Energy Law encourages businesses to address the use of fossil fuel by providing incentives for a shift to renewable sources of energy.

Pakistan has evolved a strategy in order to implement United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for prevention, address and remedy of human rights violations during business operations. The entire strategy revolves around three pillars - protect, respect and remedy. Currently, it’s carrying out a National Baseline Assessment to evaluate the current situation on human rights, in the business sector, especially in the contexts of the Danish Institute of Human Rights Toolkit. Similarly, the country has developed a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, through adoption of a transparent and inclusive process of all stakeholders including business entities, employees, labour unions and government stakeholders[[18]](#footnote-18).

The businesses should ensure that they fulfill their CSR and in doing so ensure that they contribute to social justice.

**9. Please share any good practices for: i) protecting women’s and girl’s rights to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; ii) empowering women and girls to act as positive agents of environmental justice; and iii) encouraging men and boys to act as allies in these endeavours. In addition, please highlight the work of any women or girl environmental defenders. Good practices may occur at the international, regional, national, sub-national or local levels, and may include: the implementation of measures to ensure women’s participation in environmental decision-making processes; efforts to support women environmental defenders; measures to facilitate women’s access to climate or biodiversity finance; gender-responsive legislation, regulations, standards,**

**jurisprudence, plans and policies; and initiatives to increase women’s access to and control over productive resources including land, forest resources, freshwater, credit, loans, and extension services. Examples that treat girls distinctly from adult women would be particularly appreciated.**

Climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs must be developed and implemented with an intersectional, equitable lens, and a human right- based approach[[19]](#footnote-19). This also means applying human rights, gender and a social-justice based approach to climate action that includes the full range of SRHR and to commit robust and feminist financing for the climate and SRHR intersection. National policies, programming and budget related to climate change and disaster risk reduction incorporate gender mainstreaming and SRHR and include gender-differentiated impact analysis of climate change disasters and gender equality. SRHR must be incorporated as a key component of environmental, climate change, and disaster risk reduction policies and programs, to ensure their success and support the achievement of gender equality and the fulfillment of the right to health[[20]](#footnote-20). Priority should also be given to climate resilient health systems that are more likely to support and ensure SRH services in times of crisis or disaster[[21]](#footnote-21). We therefore need strong, accessible, and resilient health systems that serve the specific SRH needs of all women and girls and gender diverse people, whether for contraception, antenatal care, safe abortion that are required to fulfil the right to health and to build adaptive capacity and strengthen resilience to direct and indirect climate impacts.

In the Philippines, efforts by the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) to integrate gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights include partnerships with women’s organisations that enable women’s empowerment and access to sexual and reproductive health services with ICSI’s training of women in constructing solar lamps; assessment of the energy efficiency of women’s organisation’s offices; and application of climate science and gender eqiality-SRHR lenses in the evaluation of LGU efforts in disater management. The GAD Local Learning Hubs are established in various areas nationwide to offer unique programs from a wide array of services and interventions on health, environment, social protection, childcare, women-centered livelihood, GAD capacity building and advocacy, GAD related database and institutional mechanisms. These programs are designed to contribute in achieving gender equity and empowerment[[22]](#footnote-22). Other examples of good practices/activities conducted by ICSC and by our partner organizations working on climate, gender, and SRHR, include establishing a women-run renewable energy enterprise in Sulu-an island, women as RE technology innovators[[23]](#footnote-23), SHINE Project in the Philippines: women, technology transfer, COVID-19 vaccination in small islands[[24]](#footnote-24), mainstreaming gender and health-SRHR strategies in local climate development planning in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines[[25]](#footnote-25), establishing a rural women agenda by the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK), providing an advocacy platform for a better policy, culture and enabling environment for better lives for rural women, their households and communities[[26]](#footnote-26), and establishing community health clinics to respond to womenʼs expressed need for sexual reproductive health and rights needs by the Likhaan Center for Womenʼs Health, Inc[[27]](#footnote-27).

The duty to take legislative and other measures to ensure the right to health and access to healthcare; like the treatment of medical records with confidentiality; the design and development of healthcare resources and programmes to improve the health status of women and LGBTI people and address discrimination and prejudice; the need for informed and empowered decisions regarding medical treatment and care; non-discrimination and respect for the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities in sexual health, education, prevention, care and treatment, including recognition of next of kin; facilitating access to gender reassignment treatments; and adopting policy-making and education and training programmes for healthcare workers to improve treatment for LGBTI people. Separately, there is also Principle 18, which addresses the need for LGBTI persons to be protected from medical abuses.

In Pakistan, Rural Development Foundation (RDF) established sustained group of local women human rights defenders who develop action plans for advocacy to include women, girls and transgender persons in climate change policy making and decision making process. The group also undertakes advocacy with service providers to improve service delivery for women, girls and transgender persons in the climate crisis.

**10. What are the potential benefits of respecting, protecting and fulfilling women’s and girl’s rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment? Examples that treat girls distinctly from adult women would be particularly appreciated.**

Fulfilling women and girls' right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment can result in inclusive policy making and decision making actions that can lead to gender-responsive actions against climate change. Similarly, right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment can empower girls to be self sufficient and make their decisions in relation to their sexual and reproductive health and climate justice. The significance of gender equality is vital for a sustainable tomorrow, despite the fact that advancing gender in climate crisis and environmental calamities, is a major challenge in a country like Pakistan.

Empowering women, especially marginalised women, enhances their empowerment and resilience and their direct contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This is in addition to improved health and well-being which in turn allow for better access to education–- better school attendance for girls; improved labor force participation and improved productivity which are necessary for economic growth. Moreover, they can be leaders for community action in building resilience, DRRM as well as in the formulation and adoption of necessary national and local policies.

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