

Dear friend,

People often talk about climate change in terms of emissions caps, treaty negotiations, and scientific advancements. But what you've shown us through your submissions to the [It's Getting Personal Climate Board](#) is that climate change is about individuals -- **it's about YOU.**



Indeed, people all around the world are feeling the effects of climate change, but women in developing countries are among the most vulnerable. They tend to make up a larger share of the agricultural work force and have access to fewer income-earning opportunities. What's more, women often manage the households and care for family members -- responsibilities that limit their mobility and increase their susceptibility to sudden weather-related natural disasters.

**In short: Women are disproportionately burdened with climate change's impacts -- and are given the responsibility to adapt to them, too.** Today the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) released a new report, [State of World Population 2009](#), that takes a closer look at this imbalance:

- Girls drop out of school to help their mothers, who must work harder to secure food, water, and energy for their homes.
- As climate change affects their livelihoods, women feel the financial burden and often must take on extra jobs to support their families.
- This cycle of deprivation, poverty, and inequality undermines the social capital needed to deal effectively with climate change.

Given these challenges, successful approaches to climate change are more likely to emerge in the context of sustainable development and social development,

respect for human rights and cultural diversity, the empowerment of women, and access to reproductive health for all.

And as global leaders join forces to combat climate change, it is important for them to keep these gender considerations in mind when developing climate adaptation policies. Women and men should be contributing equally to the solution so that one group is not faced with more challenges.

Think about how your mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, and friends are affected by climate change around the world, and how they are adapting to it. **[Share your story with us on the Climate Board](#)**, **encourage the women you know to share theirs, and tell us how *It's Getting Personal*.**

Thanks,

The UN Foundation Climate and Energy team  
(Reid, Ryan, Jana, Kurt, and John)

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