

The impact of women on climate: the gender inclusion to help fighting climate change

80% of people displaced by climate change are women, according to the UN. And in emerging countries, in case of drought, and deforestation, it is mostly women's job to go further to get the water of the family, to walk additional hours to find wood to cook the meal.

On the other side, the climate emergency that the World is facing is each month – even every day – stronger: May 2020 has been the hottest month on record. In this context of emergency, it is necessary to not forget that climate change affect women disproportionately, but also that women are a key to this radical transition that has to happen fast.

In emerging countries, the farms run by women are half to two-third the size of men's. This causes a limitation to the access of additional funding that they might need in case of weather-related losses or if they want to move to more resilient agricultural techniques.

For this reason, we support some gender and climate initiatives, among them:

- The One Planet Fellowship: hundreds of African researchers, 50% women, will be provided with state-of-the-art training in order to obtain improved technical and managerial skills so as to design relevant strategies for adaptation to climate change by supporting farmers with their strategies for adaptation to climate change (choosing the most resistant crops, optimising resource management, etc.);
- the AgriFEd program, with the UN Women : it seeks to increase the productivity of women farmers and their resilience to climate change, thanks to specific training programmes, enabling them in particular to make better use of resources, promoting access to financing to enable women to develop their production methods, and supporting land reform in the country for better access and to secure land allocated to women farmers;
- The Microfinance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation project: Led by the UN Environment, BNP Paribas finances a technical assistance support to Microfinance Institutions in Africa and Latin America. The goal is to provide to women farmers the products and services to

help them engaging in environmentally sustainable activities, improving their income and resilience towards climate change.

Beyond actions we also need coalitions : we collaborated with the Women's Forum to the writing of the Charter for Engagement, "Taking the lead to inclusion: Women leading the climate action", that was issued in June 2019, and signed by BNP Paribas as one of the first companies, and now followed by more than 70 companies. This Charter is a call for action, a call to count on these 50% of the World population that can have a huge impact on the fight against climate change.

In the wake of the recovery plans that are taking place over the World after the Covid-crisis, more and more voices are raising that urge governments to include as a baseline the climate fight in all recovery plans. In these voices, companies are also pushing the governments in this direction, as has done BNP Paribas CEO, Jean-Laurent Bonnafé, in a tribune published with 90 other CEO of French companies. But let's make sure that women are also fully involved, as studies show how much gender inclusion is a condition to success.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/impact-women-climate-gender-inclusion-help-fighting-change-pessez/?published=t&trackingId=PF%2Bz2IKW7wAEpTfyhivZjg%3D%3D>

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