



# **Drought Impacts: Gender/Women & Girls**

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# BACKGROUND



Drought generally impacts negatively in many societies, however it has devastating impact on women and girls in the developing countries. This presentation is highlighting some of the key impacts and coping mechanisms.

# IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS



Drought leads to decrease in livestock due to depletion of pastures. Alternatively women will be in the fields in search for food which requires physical work.

This is hard for women and girls since they are also left to do the domestic work at home. i.e cooking, cleaning etc

# IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS



Cont....

Drought decreases food supply and income. It affects women and girls in agricultural societies who depend on both subsistence and cash crop farming as a source of food and income. Women alternatively seek other means of income and engage dangerous ventures such prostitution

# IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS



Cont...

Domestic work is a role allocated to women in developing countries. Drought leads to drying or reducing the water tables and forces women to fetch water from far remote areas. This can expose women not only to long hours of walking but to risk to GBV ie rape, kidnap etc

# IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS



- Drought causes more labor work for the societies in developing countries. This makes difficult for women and girls who already had a fair share of the division of the labor. It makes women and girls hungry, malnourished with a reduced physical ability
- Drought depletes trees and reduces source of fire for the rural societies. Women and girls tasked with the domestic work will have to trek long distances in search of firewood to cook for the family. This exposes women and girls to risk of GBV.

# IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS



Cont....

- Drought leads to rural-urban migration. This migration makes women and girls travel several kilo meters along side their children which exposes them to risks of rape and abduction.
- Drought leads to conflict among the communities due to scarcity of resources. Pastoral grazing resources and water points are among resources in contention during such period. When conflict arises risks for women and girls increases since waring parties always target the vulnerable, militias take advantage and rape women and girls.

# IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS



Early and forced marriage. Due to limited resources parents often force marriages during drought. This is a form GBVnd human right issue that is has a devastating impact on women and girls.

Menstrual hygiene deteriorates during drought due to scarcity of water. Women and girls often face mobility and health challenges as a result of poor hygiene management.



# COPING MECHANISMS



Independence: Improve women and girls decision making in the communities. There's need for women to have a say in basic services within their communities. I.e. inclusion of water committees.

Establish alternative sources of livelihood for women and girls and not rely on natural resources for basic needs such food. Diversification helps in handy. i.e microfinance

For a proper coping mechanisms to be in place women and girls need to be given opportunity to education.

# COPING MECHANISM



Cont....

Establish monitoring systems that will enable measure the impact of drought and put measures in place. This may include community and state led initiatives. Mapping of the most vulnerable and coping mechanisms.

Sell of assets that would have been diminished by drought. This includes livestock for other alternatives.

Storage of food stock in a silo during the harvesting seasons. The drought impact will be reduced for women farmers when silos are utilized effectively. This can allow the households use the food in store the entire dry season.

END



Thank you