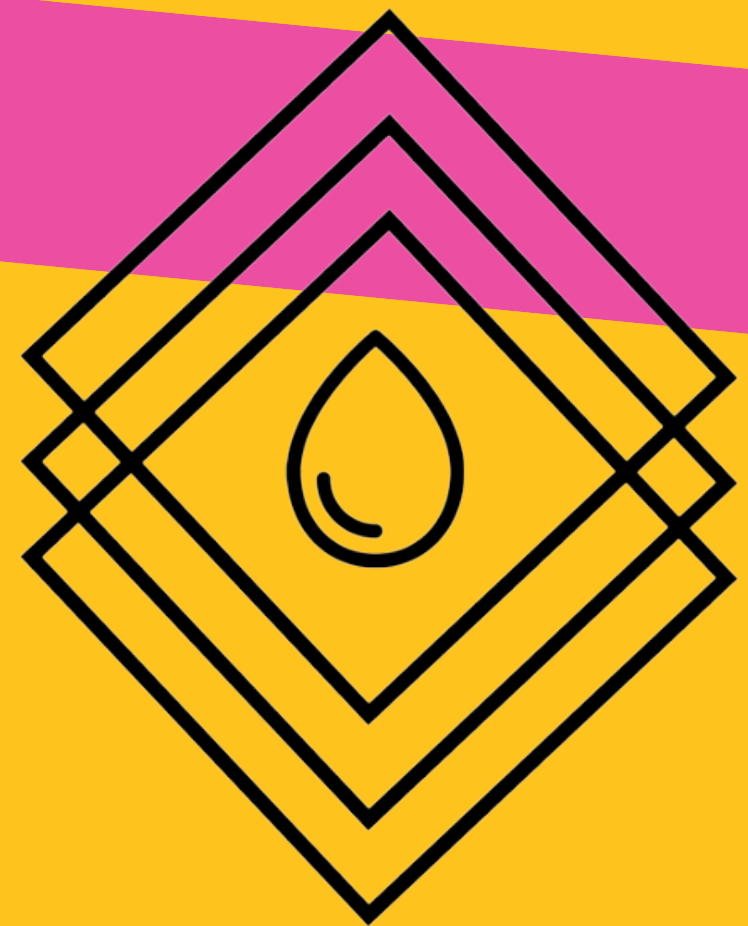


CLIMATE JUSTICE REQUIRES BODILY JUSTICE

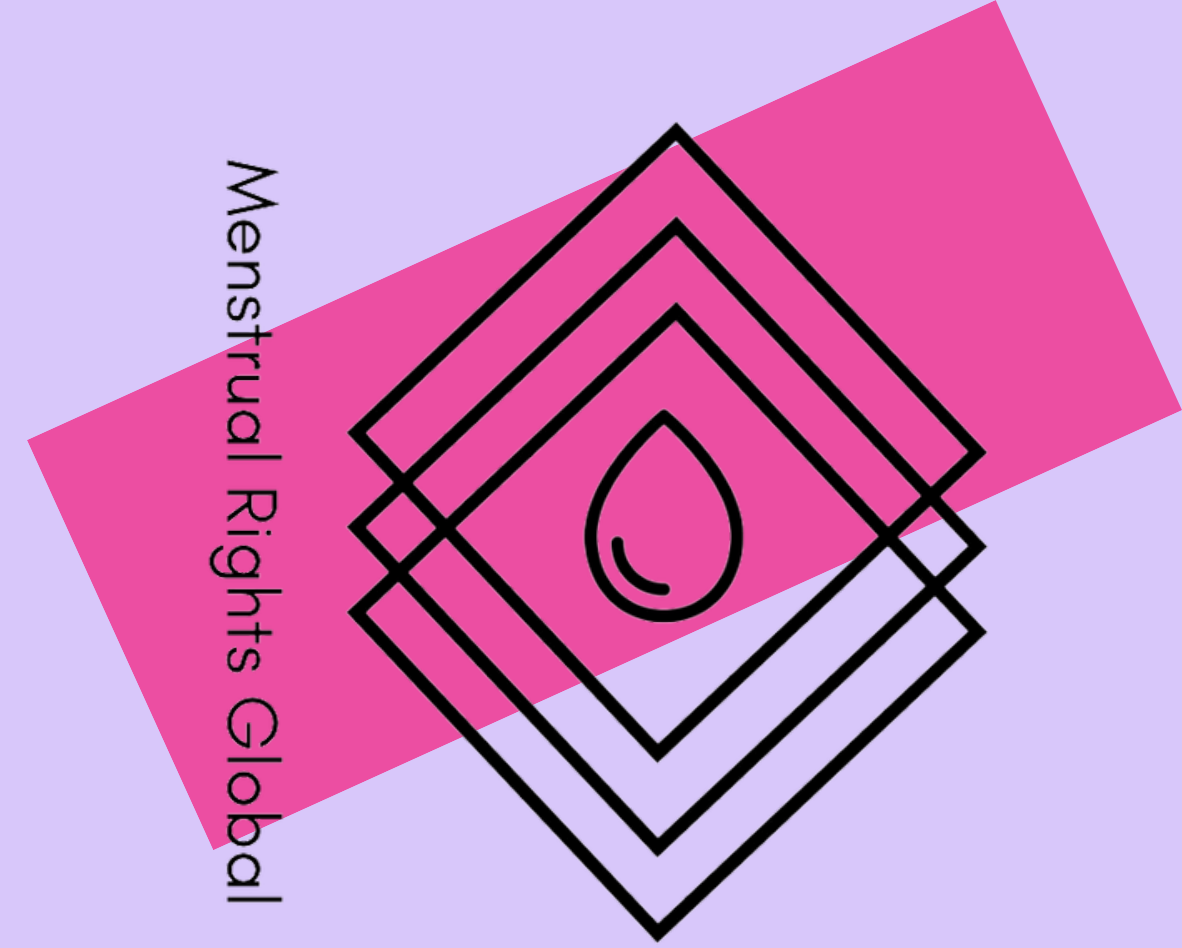
Why sexual and reproductive health, nutrition security and climate adaptation must be governed as interconnected system

Menstrual Rights Global



**POLICY
BRIEF**

- SRHR = labour force participation
- SRHR = food system stability
- SRHR = climate resilience
- SRHR = fiscal efficiency



About Menstrual Rights Global

Menstrual Rights Global works to advance menstrual health as a human rights, public health and development priority. Through research, policy engagement and global advocacy, the organisation promotes the integration of menstrual health within sexual and reproductive health systems, gender equality strategies and broader governance frameworks that shape health, education and economic participation.

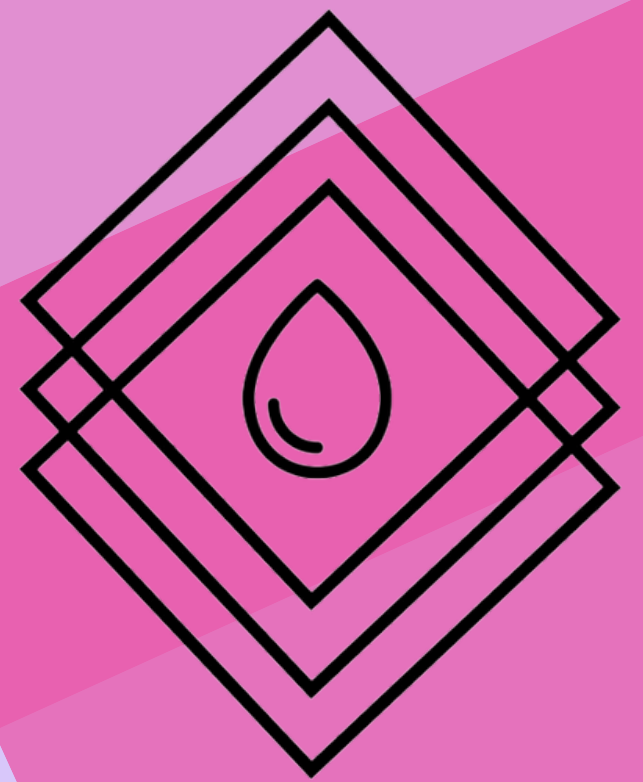
Presented by Menstrual Rights Global

A governance Imperative for International Women's Day 2025 and CSW70

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Overview

Fragmented governance across climate, nutrition, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health weakens resilience and economic performance. Governments are responding to interconnected crises through disconnected systems. Climate disruption, rising food insecurity, fiscal constraint and political contestation over sexual and reproductive health and rights are converging. Yet public policy remains structurally fragmented.

The evidence is clear. Poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes account for nearly one third of the disease burden among women aged 15 to 49 years¹. Climate change threatens to push more than 120 million additional people into hunger by 2030². Closing gender gaps in labour force participation could increase global gross domestic product by up to 20%³. These are not separate development challenges. They are indicators of system performance and national resilience.

International Women's Day 2025 and the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women mark thirty years since the Beijing Platform for Action. In the same policy cycle, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice clarified state obligations to prevent climate harm and protect human rights⁴, while the World Health Organization adopted its Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health 2025 to 2028⁵. The policy mandate for integration now exists. The governance architecture to deliver it does not.

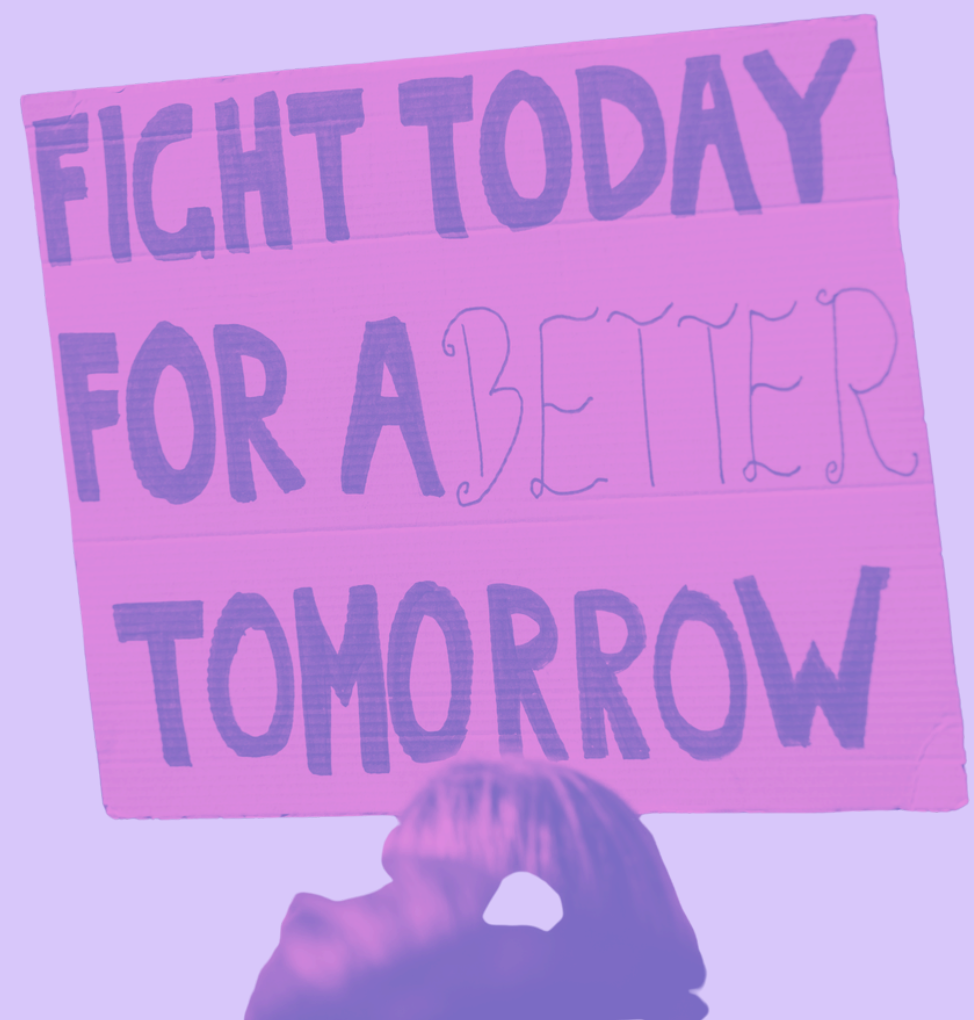
This brief sets out the issue, the urgency and the institutional reforms required.

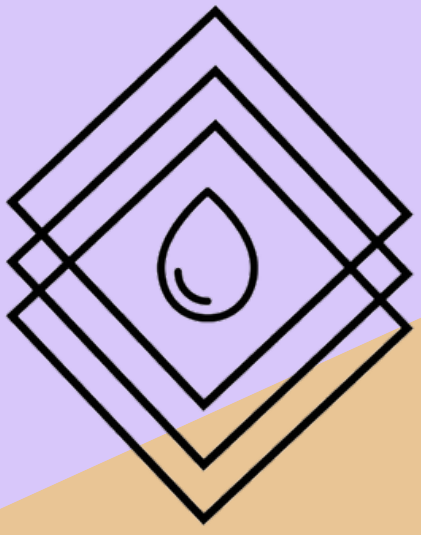
The Facts

Poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes account for nearly one third of the disease burden among women aged 15 to 49 years¹.

Climate change threatens to push more than 120 million additional people into hunger by 2030²

Closing gender gaps in labour force participation could increase global gross domestic product by up to 20%³.





Climate resilience, nutrition security and sexual and reproductive health including menstrual health are structurally interdependent. Yet they are governed separately.

The Issue

Climate resilience, nutrition security and sexual and reproductive health including menstrual health are structurally interdependent. Yet they are governed separately.

Climate adaptation plans frequently omit continuity of reproductive health services during extreme weather events. Nutrition policies often overlook the role of gender inequality and reproductive autonomy in shaping food systems. Gender equality strategies are rarely embedded within fiscal planning or adaptation frameworks.

Fragmentation generates inefficiency. It increases emergency expenditure, weakens labour productivity and undermines social cohesion. Women and girls disproportionately experience climate related health disruptions, unpaid care burdens and nutrition deficits⁶. Global health emergencies consistently highlight the gendered impacts of public health policies and state responses, disrupting access to vital services and exacerbating existing inequalities.¹² These inequities constrain educational attainment, economic participation and long term growth.

Climate change and climate-related disasters intensify gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, child marriage, sexual exploitation and other forms of GBV by exacerbating economic stress, displacement and food insecurity, and by disrupting health and protection systems needed to prevent and respond to violence. Climate events such as droughts, floods and extreme weather are associated with increased GBV risks across diverse settings, and these risks are heightened where disaster preparedness and recovery systems do not integrate protection and support for survivors¹⁴.

In effect, governance silos are producing avoidable vulnerability and perpetuating gendered structural violence.

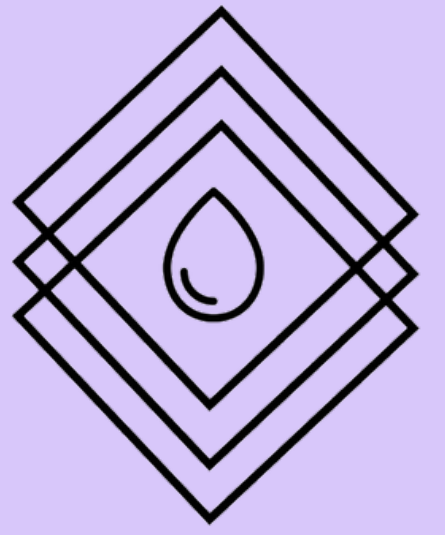
Why NOW?

The urgency of integration rests on three developments. First, international legal and political clarity. The International Court of Justice advisory opinion confirmed that climate harm engages binding human rights obligations⁴. The World Health Organization has explicitly linked climate resilience with health system preparedness⁵. Beijing plus thirty reaffirmed gender equality as foundational to sustainable development⁷. These instruments collectively require implementation coherence.

Second, fiscal constraint. Sovereign debt pressures and rising climate related expenditure require governments to demonstrate efficient allocation of resources. Integrated systems reduce duplication and strengthen return on public investment.

Third, institutional momentum. The forthcoming European Climate Pact conference in Brussels from 23 to 25 March 2025 signals growing recognition within Europe that climate governance must be participatory and socially grounded⁸. This creates an opportunity to embed gender responsive ecosystem thinking within regional and global policy processes.

The question is no longer whether integration is normatively desirable. It is whether fragmentation remains economically defensible.



What Governments Should Do

Governments should treat sexual and reproductive health including menstrual health as a core adaptation and resilience priority, embedding service continuity within national adaptation plans and emergency preparedness frameworks, supported by explicit budget allocations.

They should institutionalise cross ministerial coordination between finance, climate, health, agriculture and gender portfolios, with shared accountability frameworks and joint reporting. Integration must be operational, not rhetorical.

Public financial management systems should apply gender responsive and climate responsive budgeting tools to track whether expenditure strengthens resilience across interconnected systems. This enhances transparency and fiscal credibility.

Governments should also formalise community participation within climate and health governance structures. Evidence from global health demonstrates that co creation with affected populations improves accountability and sustainability⁹.

To dismantle these inequities, Governments need to mandate the inclusion of women in all stages of clinical trials and provide guidance for sex-disaggregated data analysis. We must stop treating half the global population as a minority group in clinical research, and instead design interventions that reflect women's lived experiences.

Governments should ensure that climate adaptation plans, disaster risk reduction strategies and emergency response frameworks include survivor-centered services such as accessible health, psychosocial and legal support, safe shelter and referral pathways with dedicated budgets, trained personnel and accountability mechanisms to safeguard women, girls and other affected populations during and after climate shocks.

Gender responsive governance ecosystems must explicitly include sexual and gender minorities, whose access to health care, emergency shelter, social protection and food systems is often constrained by discrimination and legal exclusion.

Finally, national statistical offices and research institutions should prioritise disaggregated data collection and operational research on the intersection of climate shocks and sexual and reproductive health service continuity¹⁰. Without evidence, integration cannot be measured.

Expected Impact

An integrated, gender responsive ecosystem approach yields measurable returns.

Economically, improved sexual and reproductive health and nutrition outcomes strengthen labour force participation and productivity³. Reduced preventable health disruptions lower long term healthcare expenditure.

Fiscally, coordination reduces duplication across ministries and improves efficiency in climate and health spending. Closing the gender data gap in women's health research could yield 75 million DALYs annually, increasing annual global GDP by \$1 trillion by 2040.¹³

Socially, resilience to climate shocks improves, inequality narrows and maternal and preventable mortality decline¹¹.

Governance outcomes also improve. Alignment with international legal obligations enhances multilateral credibility and strengthens compliance with human rights frameworks.



Conclusion

International Women's Day 2025 and CSW70 present an opportunity for IWD 2026 and CSW70 must represent a moment of political clarity, not symbolic reaffirmation.

Thirty years after the Beijing Platform for Action, the rights secured through decades of feminist organising cannot be treated as settled. Progress on GE and SRHR was not inevitable. It was fought for and defended by generations of activists, researchers, policymakers and communities who insisted that gender equality, bodily autonomy and reproductive autonomy are central to social justice and economic development.

Today those gains face converging pressures. Climate disruption, rising inequality, fiscal constraint and coordinated efforts to roll back SRHR and LGBTQIA+ protections are reshaping the global policy landscape. Fragmented governance systems are no longer merely inefficient. They are incompatible with the realities of interconnected crises.

A systems lens is therefore essential. Climate resilience, nutrition security, GE and SRHR must be governed as interdependent pillars of human security and economic resilience. Gender mainstreaming across climate adaptation, health systems and fiscal policy must explicitly include SRHR and bodily autonomy, grounded in rights based and intersectional approaches that recognise the diverse experiences of women, girls and SGM communities.

Urbanisation further heightens the urgency of integrated governance. By 2050 nearly seventy per cent of the global population will live in cities. Urban climate risks, health system pressures and gender inequality will increasingly converge in complex environments where fragmented policy responses are economically and socially unsustainable.

Meaningful engagement must therefore be central to governance reform. Communities, particularly those most affected by climate shocks, economic instability and GBV, must participate in the design and oversight of policies intended to serve them. The principle of "nothing about us without us" must extend across climate, health and development governance.

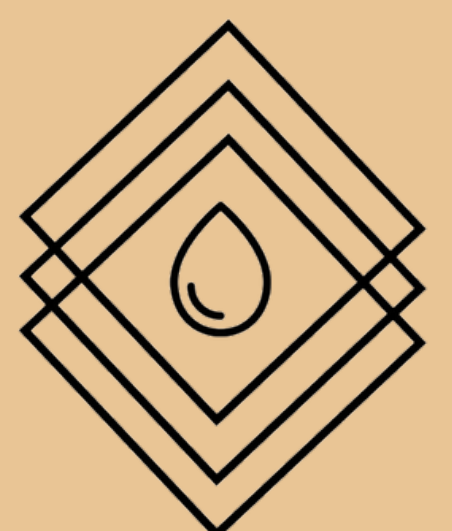
At the institutional level, stronger coordination across the multilateral system will be essential. Discussions around closer alignment between the mandates of UN Women and UNFPA reflect growing recognition that GE and SRHR are structurally interconnected. Effective governance will also require sustained collaboration between CSOs, governments, MDBs, philanthropic actors and the private sector to mobilise financing, expertise and political commitment.

This IWD and during CSW70, the global community must recognise that today's crises cannot be addressed through isolated policy responses. Climate justice requires bodily justice. Economic resilience requires GE. Sustainable development requires integrated governance.

In a moment defined by overlapping crises, the task is not simply to defend existing gains but to deepen them through coordinated action. The institutions gathered at CSW70 have the mandate, the evidence and the responsibility to act together.

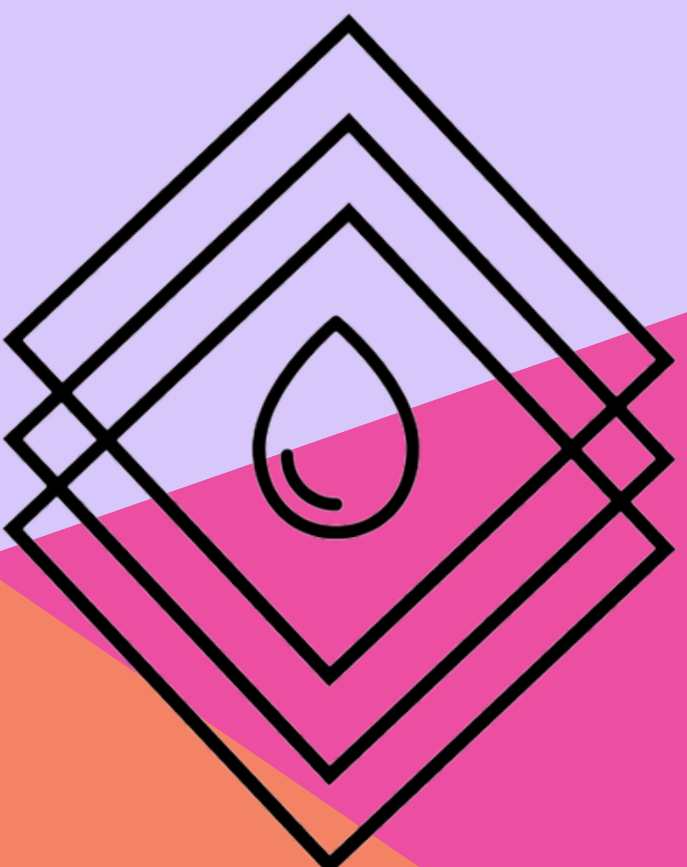
The question now is not whether integration is necessary. It is whether the political will exists to deliver it.

Progress on GE and SRHR was not inevitable. It was won through struggle and must now be protected through governance.



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