



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Gender, Protection, and Inclusion Analysis and Stocktake for Anticipatory Action in Southern Africa

Key Findings from 4 national reports

September 2025



# Contents

Background of the Analysis.....	3
Objectives of the Analysis.....	4
Research sub-themes.....	5
Methodology .....	6
Key Findings and Recommendations .....	7
Findings per country .....	10
Madagascar .....	11
Zimbabwe .....	12
Malawi.....	13
Tanzania .....	14
Recommendations.....	15





## Background of the Analysis

In 2024, WFP commissioned the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results in Anglophone Africa (CLEAR AA) based at the University of the Witwatersrand to conduct a study in 4 Southern Africa countries (Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

A mixed methods approach was used including **i)** household surveys; **ii)** separate focus group discussions (FDGs) with men, women, young men and young women; **iii)** and key informant interviews (KII) with AA practitioners from government officials, NGOs and International NGOs.

This analysis was funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).



# Objectives of the Analysis

1. Deepen understanding of barriers, risks, needs and priorities in relation to climate related shocks with a gender, protection, and inclusion (GPI) lens relevant for anticipatory action.
2. Develop mixed methods tools that can be used across contexts for GPI analysis to inform anticipatory action programmes.
3. Identify gaps and adaptations to strengthen mainstreaming of GPI into anticipatory action programmes to improve outcomes for different groups.



# Research sub-themes

- **Gender dynamics of climate hazards** and risks AA aims to protect against.
- **The impacts of climate hazards before, during and after they materialize** on various socio-demographic groups.
- **Needs and priorities** of women, men, girls, boys and people with disabilities when climate shocks hit.
- **Barriers** faced by women, men, boys, girls and others in accessing support when exposed to a climate shock.
- **Positive and negative coping strategies<sup>1</sup>** used by different groups.
- **Roles and responsibilities** of women, men, boys and girls across levels before, during and after a climate shock, including how do social and gender norms drive these.
- **Participation in climate decision-making structures** in charge of community planning and design of AA plans.
- **Acceptable approaches and structures** to enhance inclusive and gender responsive participation.
- **Differential access to climate information and early warning systems** across socio-demographic groups.



<sup>1</sup> Positive coping strategies are healthy, constructive methods that address the source of stress to promote long-term well-being, whereas negative coping strategies are unhealthy, avoidant behaviors that provide temporary relief but ultimately cause more harm.

# Methodology

COUNTRY AND DISTRICTS	QUANTITATIVE SAMPLE	FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FDGs)	KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS)
<b>Madagascar</b> (Betroka, Tsihombe and Betioky districts)	720	12 FDGs with women, men, young women and young men	18 KIIs local leaders (mayors, fokontany chiefs/traditional chiefs), representatives of community organisations, officials involved in AA
<b>Zimbabwe</b> (Binga, Chiredzi, and Rushinga districts)	223	11 FGD with women, men, young women and young men	24 KIIs from government departments, local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including the Meteorological Services Department, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise (Ministry of Women Affairs), Department of Veterinary Services, Agricultural Extension Services (AGRITEX), and organisations like Welthungerhilfe and the Zimbabwe Red Cross
<b>Malawi</b> (Chikwawa, Nsanje, Kabudula, Champhanda districts)	790	5 FDGs with women, men, young women and young men	11 KIIs with local leaders, government officials, NGO representatives, community-based organisation members, and AA practitioners
<b>Tanzania</b> (Meatu, Monduli, Handeni and Micheweni districts)	744	24 FDGs with women, men, young women and young men	35 KIIs with coordinators from the Department of Disaster Management at the Prime Minister's Office, private sector representatives, civil society organisations involved in AA, disaster management coordinators, and village disaster management coordinators

# Key Findings and Recommendations

1

**Exposure to climate shocks is seen to be increasing** by all groups across the 4 countries.

Invest in women, persons with disabilities and young people's resilience to transform inequitable conditions and inequitable impacts of climate shocks.

2

**Participation in climate decision-making structures,** and disaster management committees and plans do not adequately include women or people with disabilities from local to national levels, and exclude them as leaders.

Work with relevant organizations to improve the participation of women and people with disabilities in local AA planning. At a wider level, women should lead climate governance committees at local, regional and national levels.

3

**Access to early warning messages and information,** on shocks, aid, climate data and weather forecasts is disproportionately limited for women and people with disabilities, especially in rural areas. For instance, in Tanzania, 66.2% of women reported not receiving any information, compared to 33.8% of men.

Ensure inclusive access to climate information and early warning systems by using multiple communication methods tailored to the needs of different vulnerable groups.

# Key Findings and Recommendations

4

## Climate shocks exacerbate child protection risks:

removal from school or closures, child labour, poor nutrition, gendered implications for labour (e.g. water/firewood collection by girls).

Strengthen child protection elements in AA, by working with national child protection systems, UN agencies and relevant partners in the respective countries.

5

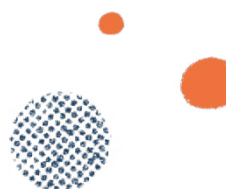
Shocks **increase exposure to violence**, including sexual exploitation of women and adolescent girls. This is linked to a crisis in masculinities, and the unequal position of women.

Integrate GBV prevention and response in Anticipatory Action plans.

6

Implementation bottlenecks and barriers can delay the supply of much-needed food to households with **limited mobility or access to information**.

Reduce the occurrence of avoidable delays early through advance planning and simulation exercises.





# Key Findings and Recommendations

7

In the wake of a climate shock, **immediate priorities and workloads are gendered**: women adopt negative coping strategies within the household, such as reducing their food consumption.

Embed gender-sensitive targeting and support mechanisms into early warning systems and anticipatory action plans.

8

The systemic **exclusion of persons with disabilities** limits their access to climate information, participation in local planning processes, and financial resources, further exacerbated by the impacts of climate shocks on their livelihoods.

Whenever possible, deepen collaboration with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in these countries and build skills to integrate the needs of people with disabilities.

9

**Households with multiple adults** demonstrate greater resilience to climate shocks compared to single-parent households.

Prioritize single-parent households in anticipatory targeting by integrating tailored support mechanisms that address their unique vulnerabilities.

## Findings per country

• Tanzania

• Malawi

• Madagascar

• Zimbabwe

# Findings: Madagascar

1

a. **Young people** were not reached by any of the traditional communication platforms, accessing information via word of mouth from family and friends.

b. In the studied districts, **men generally had better access to early warning information** and resources than women.

2

**Adult men and those from wealthy families have most influence** in community planning. Women highlighted that although collective discussions take place in community planning meetings, women do not make decisions.

3

**Protection risks for children and adolescent girls** are significant – children are employed in mica mining in Betroka and adolescent girls may be subjected to sex work and begging as a means of family survival.

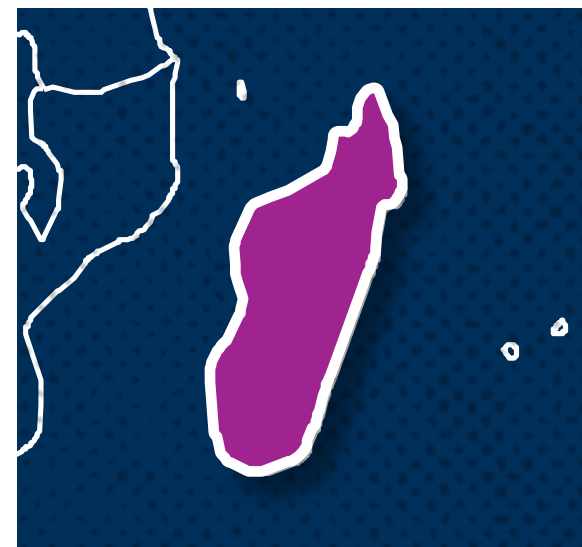
4

a. **Psychosocial health services** is highlighted as a priority for men.

b. **Sexual and reproductive health services** are highlighted as a priority for women.

5

**The patriarchal expectations** on men as providers, drives GBV and family abandonment during the occurrence of climate shocks. While men find ways to recover, single mothers then head up the household to face the climate shock alone.







# Findings: Zimbabwe

1

## Bottom-up planning and more equal access to information

are widely distributed through community and agricultural extension workers: community meetings are equally accessible to men and women (27% females, 29% males), and 76% of males and 60% of females rely on Agritex officers for climate hazard information.

2

**Barriers to access assistance are disproportionately higher for women** and are gendered in nature particularly by:

- Limited mobility (87%)
- Cultural norms (73%)
- Economic constraints (54%).



3

Young women and girls were at increased risk of engaging in **transactional sex** either through sex for work exchanges or by selling sex to meet their own and their families' financial needs as a result of climate shocks.

4

People with disabilities are increasingly turning to **harmful coping mechanisms** such as begging to ensure family survival.

5

Loss of income and inability to provide for families created significant psychological stress for men, creating **a crisis of meaning and masculinity**.

**Young men adopt** negative coping strategies, including substance abuse and exposure to exploitative and harmful labour practices.

6

Since men migrate due to climate shocks, **women are left with increased workloads and more responsibilities**.



# Findings: Malawi

1

Food distribution and evacuation processes fail to consider the **mobility limitations of people with disabilities** and the elderly, so these groups suffer from social stigma and lack of access to community planning.

2

**82% of women reported being concerned about domestic violence.**



3

**Child labour tends to increase** during climate shocks, as families rely on children to help cope with the resulting hardships.

4

**Limited participation of women in community decision-making structures significantly hinders their ability to prepare for and respond to climate shocks.**

Consequently, many women must depend on their husbands, other community members, or occasional access to community meetings (when permitted) for vital information.

5

Respondents were concerned that **indigenous knowledge of weather patterns and practices** for environmental management were not integrated with formal prediction and warning systems.

6

Information about weather, early warning and support available to communities is not equally accessed. For example, 70% of women had inadequate access to early warning information.

Overall, 76.8% wanted improvements in early warning information dissemination.

# Findings: Tanzania

1

Most **barriers** to assistance listed for women relate to **cultural and gender norms**, and related, secondary consequences (e.g., lack of mobility).

2

**Community networks** are an important source of support for two thirds of women after a climate shocks in **Tanzania** and AA could seek to strengthen these as a strategy to reduce impact of climate shocks.

3

Droughts exacerbate food shortages, heightening **older adults' (65+) dependence on others** for support. This impact is felt more severely for older adults living alone.

4

**Water scarcity** was particularly concerning for women (93.5%).

91% of **men reported a loss of income** compared to 75% of women.

5

**Women are less likely to access information** and have limited knowledge of climate change hazards. 66.2% of women reported don't receive any information, compared to 33.8% of men.





# Immediate programmatic steps

1

**Anticipatory Action programming:** WFP country offices (COs) should integrate these findings into their Anticipatory Action Plans.

2

**Barrier and access monitoring during AA activations:** maintain an ongoing need to identify, address and monitor barriers and access challenges faced by children, women, older people, people with disabilities and single-parent households, ensuring an iterative approach grounded in meaningful community engagement.

3

**Integrate Protection Risk:** Protection risks, heightened by climate shocks, remain insufficiently understood and inadequately reflected in the design and implementation of intervention. Accordingly, key protective measures of AA interventions need to be mainstreamed by all relevant actors, including GBV risk mitigation, healthcare access, women's leadership and disability inclusion.

While it may not fall within WFP's mandate to address all the findings presented in this presentation, we hope these insights will inform AA programmes led by actors better positioned to cover these areas.

WFP will continue to work closely with cooperating partners, civil society, and government stakeholders to help address gaps beyond its operational scope.

To ensure AA programmes are truly gender-responsive and inclusive of all vulnerable groups, interventions must be centrally informed by the lived experiences and voices of those most marginalized.

## **World Food Programme**

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,  
00148 Rome, Italy - T +39 06 65131

**<https://www.wfp.org/anticipatory-actions>**

Photo page 1: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua  
Photo page 2: WFP/Cynthia Matonhodze  
Photo page 3: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua  
Photo page 4: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

With support from:  
The Norwegian Agency for Development  
Cooperation (NORAD)

