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# *Increased heat and impacts on women*

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## INCREASED RISKS






- Rising global temperatures significantly increase demand for cooling through heightened direct needs, economic impacts, and strains on infrastructure.
- By 2080, decrease in heating energy demand, 30% to 65% and cooling energy demand increase 50% to 150%. (study from 20 selected countries)
- Over the last few months, energy systems have been struggling to cope with severe strains caused by heat waves and low rainfall being experienced in Asia.
- In many contexts natural ventilation no longer a feasible option by the 2080s, indicating a need for alternative cooling strategies.
- Extreme heat events and rising temperatures driven by climate change have a disproportionate impact on women, the poor and disadvantaged communities



# CHALLENGES

- Heat waves will increase need of meeting energy demand while also decarbonising the supply.
- In Asia and the Pacific, people's exposure to heatwaves will continue to increase, with strong geographical differences in heat-related mortality affecting those with the least resources
- Highly vulnerable groups experiencing health impacts from heat stress include anyone working outdoors and, especially, those doing outdoor manual labour (e.g., construction work, farming).
- Potential hours of work lost due to heat have increased significantly over the past two decades. Heatwaves impact labor productivity.
- Heat related deaths underestimated- 2022 European heatwave, significant gender disparity in heat-related deaths, with women experiencing 56% more fatalities than men.
- Impacts of electricity costs on home cooling use and health in hot weather nor well understood. Potentially disproportionate health and financial risks facing heat vulnerable householders (elderly, infants and those with chronic health conditions).

# What are some impacts on women?

-  **Labour and Employment-** Extreme heat has the heaviest impact on outdoor workers in informal sectors (e.g., street vendors, agriculture). Women report losing up to 30% income during heatwaves.
-  **Health-** Women often more susceptible to health impacts of extreme heat, particularly when pregnant or breastfeeding. Each 1°C rise in temperature is linked to a 6% increase in preterm births and a 16% rise in stillbirths during heatwaves. Similarly, the risk of stillbirths grows by 5% per 1°C rise in temperature. Women have 60% less access to cooling than men.
-  **Gender based violence-** Heat stress exacerbates gender-based violence, a 1°C increase in average annual temperature was connected to an increase in physical and sexual domestic violence of 6.3% across India, Pakistan and Nepal.
-  **Female-headed Households-** Female-headed households lose more of their incomes in the face of extreme weather events. A day of extreme temperature is estimated to be an annual income gap of 8 percent due to heat stress.
-  Heatwaves disrupt various sectors of our economy, including agriculture, tourism, and industry. **Understanding the gender dimensions of these impacts is essential for crafting targeted interventions.**

# RESPONDING TO INCREASED HEAT



## Cooling needs:

- **Comfort:** human comfort and safety
- **Food:** agriculture and food production and logistics cooling
- **Health:** medical cold chains and healthcare facility cooling



**Six levels of response needed-** Individual, interpersonal, community, institutional, environmental, and public policy levels (heat action planning, )



## Examples:

- communicating the health risks of heatwaves to the public and policy makers,
- establishing early warning systems
- urban cooling centers/shelters
- developing smart house technology and promotion of energy efficiency, passive cooling
- nature based solutions, urban greening
- green roofs/white roofs
- heat action planning
- worker protection measures.

*Thank you!*

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