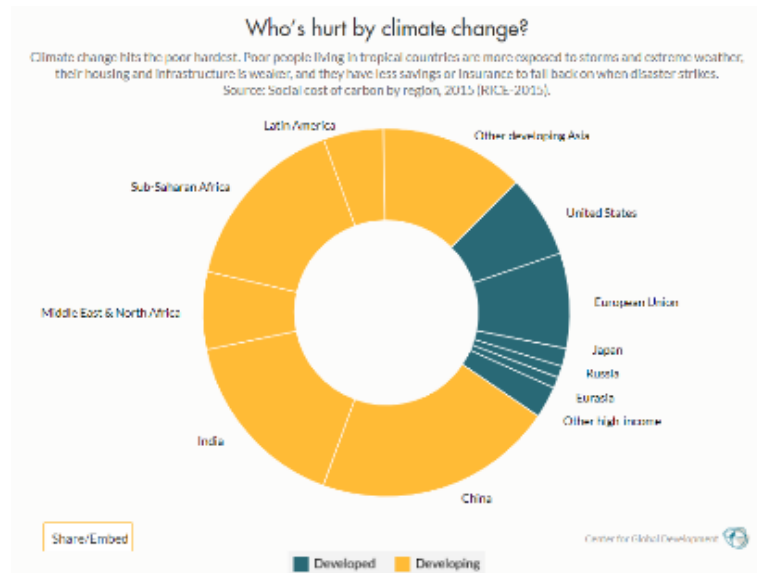




#CanAdapt: Towards a made-in-Canada gender-responsive international climate change policy

Climate finance: An issue of global inequality and social justice

Climate change disproportionately affects those who are the least responsible for causing it. According to the United Nations, the world's poorest 1 billion people (those living on less than \$1 per day) are responsible for just 3% of global carbon footprint. Yet developing countries are already bearing 80% of the cost of climate change, including through food insecurity, loss and damage, compromised livelihoods and instability. The burden of these impacts falls disproportionately on women and girls.

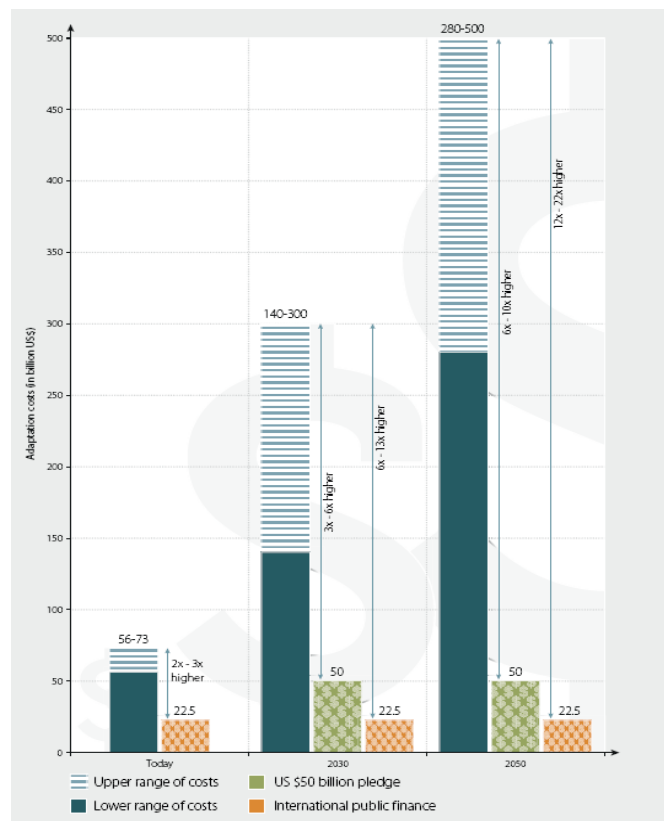


Adaptation funding gap: Developing countries picking up the tab

According to UNEP, the Global Adaptation Funding Gap could reach USD\$140-\$300 billion per year in the 2030s, and up to \$500 billion per year in the 2050s.

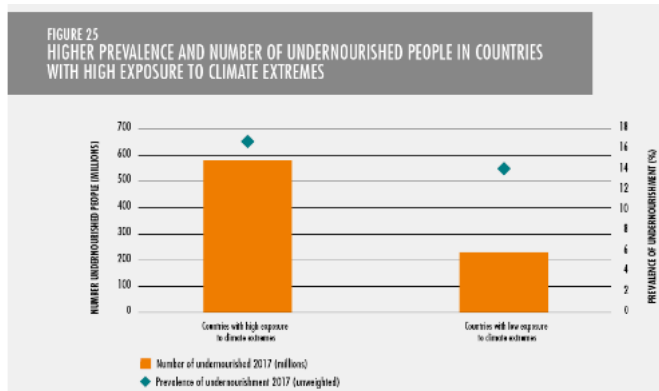
Even if developed countries successfully meet the Copenhagen Accord target of mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020, and if 50% of that were to go to adaptation, total finance for adaptation would still have to be roughly three-to-six times higher to meet likely finance needs in 2030. Despite the clear need to increase funding for adaptation, global adaptation flows as a proportion of public climate finance decreased from 18% during 2013/2014 to 16% during 2015/2016.

If developing countries do not successfully adapt to the impacts of climate change, the World Bank estimates that an additional 100 million people will fall into extreme poverty by 2030.



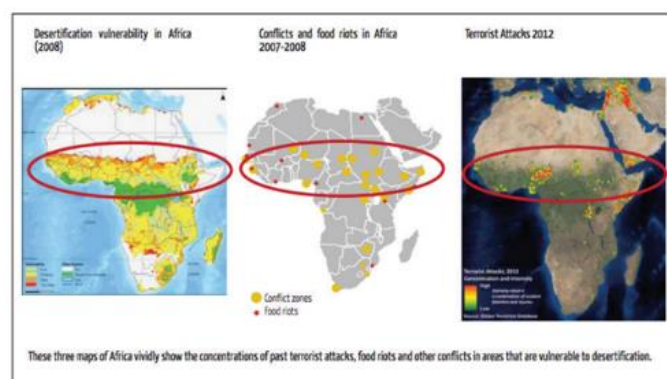
Driver and intensifier of leading global challenges

Gender inequality: According to the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), the effects of climate variability and extreme weather events will likely increase existing inequalities and vulnerabilities between men and women. Women and girls are highly dependent on local natural resources, and are more likely to be vulnerable to climate variability impacts than men, due to social and cultural conditions that influence access to resources and division of labour, as well as lack of participation in decision-making.



Hunger: In 2017, world hunger rose for the third year in a row, reaching 821 million, or roughly 1 in 9 people around the world. The 2018 [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report](#) shows that hunger and malnutrition are markedly worse in agrarian countries dependent on rainfall or experience drought. When food is scarce, [women and girls suffer most](#) - often being the last to eat, and carrying an increasing burden as climate change impacts rural livelihoods.

Migration: In 2017, disasters alone displaced [18.8 million people](#) in 135 countries. Of these, 8.6 million displacements were triggered by floods, and 7.5 million by storms, especially tropical cyclones. Unless governments take strong preventive action and invest in adaptation, climate change-related phenomena could push the total number of permanently displaced people as high as [250 million people](#), between now and 2050. When migration becomes a way of coping with climate change, men and youth typically migrate to cities looking for new opportunities, leaving women, young children and the elderly behind to sustain increasingly precarious local economies.



Conflict: Competition over increasingly scarce natural resources is also driving instability and conflict. [Data](#) from the UNCCD shows an overlap between areas that have suffered droughts and desertification, and conflict in the last decade. A 5% change in rainfall in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to increase the likelihood of conflict in the following year by 50%. Over a 60-year period, 40% of intrastate conflicts are associated with competition for land and natural resources.

Canada: Positioned to lead, with room for improvement

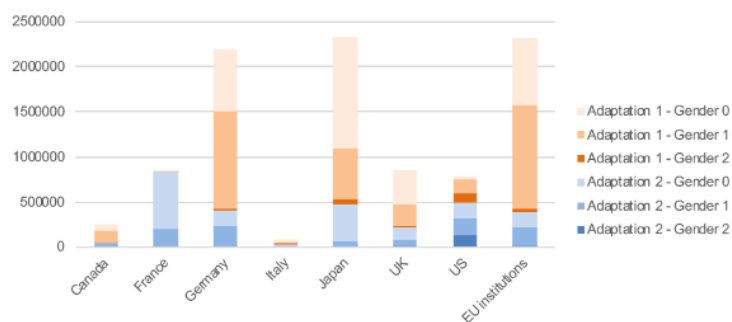
Canada's pledge: In 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau pledged \$2.65 billion over five years to help developing countries, "particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, transition to climate-resilient low-carbon economies." The pledge included a commitment to reach \$800 million in annual international climate change investment by 2020/21.

Unfair share: Despite this substantial commitment, Canada's climate finance as a proportion of Gross National Income put it in 16th position among donors in 2016. In order to meet its fair share of the US\$100 billion in climate finance by 2020, it has been [estimated](#) that Canada will need to mobilize CAD\$1.9 billion - double its current commitment.

Adaptation: Canada's [Third Biennial Report](#) to the UNFCCC reported that 54% of its climate finance over 2015 and 2016 was allocated to adaptation, putting the country in a position of leadership among its peers. However, this calculation includes Private Sector Funds at MDBs, whose track record is almost entirely in mitigation. If adjusted to this historical experience, Canada's allocation becomes [33% adaptation / 67% mitigation](#).

Gender: Between 2013-2016, 71% of Canada's adaptation investments included a focus on gender – putting it ahead of the OECD DAC average. However, in absolute numbers Canada is a low performer. Moreover, only [0.4% of adaptation finance](#) in the same period identified gender as a principal objective.

Figure 1: Adaptation finance by G7 member (2013-2016 average), based on OECD database



Innovative finance: Canada has been increasing its investments in emerging financial, including insurance-based, solutions for building resilience and managing climate-related risks. However, many such approaches have limited track records, and are not governed or guided by adequate standards and policies for ensuring pro-poor, gender equitable impact, measuring results, or avoiding a crowding out of resources for preparedness. It is critical that investments in Climate Disaster Risk Finance are governed by policies and standards that uphold aid effectiveness principles and Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy.

International policy frameworks & global climate injustice

Copenhagen Accord_ Adopted at COP15 in 2009. Puts concept of equity at the centre of international climate action, and outlines developed countries' commitment to mobilize \$100 Billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change.

Paris Agreement_ Adopted at COP21 in 2015. Establishes global goal on adaptation – including “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development” (Art 7.1). Further calls for scaled-up financial resources to be balanced between adaptation and mitigation, to be aligned with country-driven strategies and priorities, and to favour public and grant-based mechanisms in the most vulnerable countries (Art 9).

Sustainable Development Goals_ Adopted in November 2015. Puts Paris and Copenhagen at the centre of the international development agenda. SDG 13 - "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" - includes a target to implement the Copenhagen commitment and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund, which aims to achieve a 50:50 balance between adaptation and mitigation financing over time.

Recommendations: Towards a made-in-Canada gender-responsive climate change policy

In order to capitalize on its intended leadership in supporting climate action amongst the world's poorest women and girls, Canada must:

Make a renewed commitment for increased climate finance for the post-2020 period that is commensurate with our relative wealth and global responsibilities. The commitment should be underpinned by a clearly articulated toolkit approach that rationalizes how various instruments – including grant-based and concessional financing, multilateral and bilateral investments – will be used to advance Canada's climate and sustainable development objectives.

Commit at least 50% of international climate finance for principal purpose adaptation initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable people and countries. The funds should be invested according to a fully-costed Feminist International Assistance Policy implementation plan, focused on ensuring that Canada's adaptation finance upholds its international assistance and Sustainable Development Goal commitments.

Drive ambition in the upcoming Green Climate Fund replenishment round and support efforts to stability that body's governance and optimize its impact, including by working to ensure the adoption of robust and measurable gender and monitoring and evaluation policies, expanding and diversifying the GCF portfolio of accredited entities, and by pledging new funding.

Commit 20% of Canada's adaptation finance towards gender equality as a "principal" objective and 80% as a "significant objective" by 2020. This commitment could be safeguarded through the creation of a dedicated mechanism for women's climate adaptation, prioritizing support for women's environmental organizations and movements, and women small-scale farmers and their organizations.