

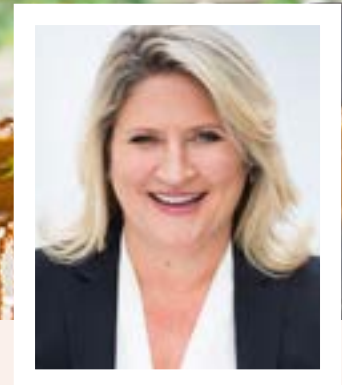
IWD 2022

SCHOOLS KIT



UN
WOMEN 
AUSTRALIA

www.unwomen.org.au



A MESSAGE FROM UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SIMONE CLARKE

It truly is inspiring to see so many young students getting involved with International Women's Day each year, wanting to learn more about our mission of achieving Gender Equality sooner and asking how you can get more involved.

This year, our theme for International Women's Day is *Changing Climates: Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow*. We hope to recognise and celebrate the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are working to change the climate of gender equality and build a sustainable future.

Women and girls face greater vulnerability and exposure to disasters, and conflicts, and yet they remain largely ignored in developing solutions and their capabilities are often under-utilised. Despite this, incredible women are working to inspire, engage and advocate for change, resilience and environmental sustainability and are truly making a difference every day.

We hope that as you and your classmates dive into this year's school kit, that you too will be inspired by the stories that we have shared and that as you work through the activities together you begin to ask of each other what changes we can all make to build a more sustainable and EQUAL future for us all.

Thank you for getting involved, we sincerely value your support.
Good luck and enjoy!

Simone Clarke

ABOUT UN WOMEN

UN Women Australia exists to raise funds for and awareness of UN Women's work to end violence against women, promote economic empowerment, advance women in leadership, and ensure women's participation in peace processes to accelerate gender equality worldwide.

UN Women is the United Nations agency for women's empowerment and gender equality, delivering programs and transforming policy to enable a brighter future for women and girls in more than 100 countries worldwide. Created in 2010, UN Women brought together various UN agencies working on gender quality and the empowerment of women. These international agreements below guide the work of UN Women.

1979

1979 - CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

CEDAW sets out the rights for women in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural fields across 16 articles and provides a definition of discrimination against women. The 'women's bill of rights' is a cornerstone of all UN Women programs. 189 countries have committed to take: *all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.*

1995

1995 BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (PFA)

Developed at the 4th world conference on women in Beijing, China, it sets out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in life across 12 critical areas of concern including poverty, health, armed conflict, power and decision-making, violence, and the girl child. Adopted by 189 governments, member states review and report on their progress every 5 years.

2000

2000 WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY (WPS)

The UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognised the need to implement different gender perspectives in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular increasing women's participation in peace negotiations and humanitarian planning. There have been seven subsequent resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and together, the 10 resolutions represent a critical framework for improving the situation of women in conflict-affected countries. Based on four pillars of prevention, participation, protection, and peacebuilding & recovery.

ABOUT IWD

International Women's Day (IWD) occurs annually on March 8 to celebrate the wonderful achievements of women. 1911 marked the very first IWD as 30,000 women protested across Europe to fight for equal working rights. Australia's first IWD was held in 1928 and nowadays, it provides an opportunity to shine a light on the progress still to be made in achieving full gender equality.



THEME:

EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

The theme for International Women’s Day 2022 is, “**Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**”, recognising the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges of the twenty-first century. A changing climate affects everyone, but it’s the world’s poorest and those in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls, who bear the brunt of environmental, economic, and social shocks. Climate change will be an added stressor that will aggravate women’s vulnerability. It is widely known that in the wake of natural disasters, women and girls face heightened risk of violence and human trafficking.

70% 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women.¹

10% Women predominate in the world’s food production (50-80%), but they own less than 10% of the land.¹

1.2 billion At least 1.2 billion people could be displaced by climate-related events by 2050.²

14x Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die or be injured from a natural disaster. More than 70% of people who died in the 2004 Asian tsunami were women.³

Women are disproportionately affected by climate change but, despite their vulnerability, women are active agents who promote ways to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. For a long time, women have historically developed knowledge and skills related to water harvesting and storage, food preservation and rationing, and natural resource management.



WATCH:

Women for Results | Narrated by Anne Hathaway

Women in Action

SOK SOPHEAP

Climate change has significant impacts on access to fresh water for many living in rural communities. The consequences of the increased frequency in floods and droughts are far reaching, particularly for vulnerable groups, including women who are responsible for water management at the household level. All over the developing world, women and girls bear the burden of fetching water for their families and spend significant amounts of time daily hauling water from distant sources.

Sok Sopheap is one of the many women affected.

Every morning at 10am, Sok Sopheap sets off to run errands and pick up her two grandchildren from school in Tropang Thom village, southern Cambodia. Sopheap is in her 50's – a stage in life when women might choose to slow down – but like many local women, she is bearing an increasingly heavy burden as a result of climate change. Like other villages in Takeo province, Tropang Thom has been struggling with water shortages. During some months, taps and waterways run dry, paddy fields wither and villagers must walk 15 to 20 kilometres to collect water; while at other times, the sudden onslaught of rain floods villages and washes crops away.

While young men migrate to the urban centres in search of jobs, women and children are often left behind in the villages. Younger women spend the

week working late hours in textile mills nearby, while older women tend the fields, take care of children, and bear most of the domestic responsibilities. On weekends, the younger women take their turn doing the farming.

Multiple generations of women are trapped by climate change in this way, caught in a vicious cycle of increased work for decreasing returns, with few able to break free.

Then, a couple of years ago, Sopheap had the foresight to invest in a biogas* pipeline fitted to her home with the support of a local enterprise. She was the first woman in the village to do so and is now one of a handful using biogas, run on organic manure sourced straight from her cowshed.

Nearly 85% of rural Cambodia relies on firewood and as prices kept rising, for Sopheap, breaking this habit was transformative. Not only has she saved money in the long run by switching to biogas, but cooking and heating water now goes much faster, and she no longer has to collect or buy, chop and clean firewood. This simple, clean and cost-saving renewable energy has eased her workload and set a positive example she is quick to share with others.

Source: UN Environment and UN Women/Prashanthi Subramaniam

Biogas is a renewable fuel produced by the breakdown of organic matter such as food scraps and animal waste. It can be used in a variety of ways including as vehicle fuel and for heating and electricity generation.

(Source: National Grid)



MY THUY COMMUNE

Viet Nam ranked among the 12 countries with the highest levels of exposure to natural disasters in 2020. Until recently, women's role in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response was not recognised, which compromised these efforts. With the support of UN Women, local women are now leading their communities in preparing for disasters in ways that reduce negative impacts.

Le Thuy district, located along Kien Giang river, is among the high-risk flood zones in Quang Binh province, central Viet Nam. After two years without flooding, in October 2019, Le Thuy's luck turned for the worse—three consecutive floods came within a month. However, the damage to lives and livelihoods of the people of My Thuy commune was minimal, because of the preparations and adaptations.

"Most of the villagers were sleeping when the flood was rushing in," recalls Huong Duong, a small shopkeeper living near Kien Giang river in My Thuy commune. "I was woken by the commune loudspeakers warning people that the river water was at a very high level and urging them to help each other to bring their belongings to higher places." Duong is one of 30 active community leaders in charge of communications within the My Thuy commune, trained by the Viet Nam Women's Union and UN Women joint project on disaster risk reduction.

"When I know a storm is coming, I inform the villagers. We help each other to reinforce houses. Some people place sand and stock bags on the roofs to stabilise them. I also remind my

neighbours to stock up on food and keep a portable kerosene stove or wood stove handy, so that we can cook without electricity during stormy days," explains Duong.

Since 2013, the project has reached more than 5,000 people—including men, women, the elderly, and children—training and informing them about disaster preparedness and response. According to the Viet Nam government data, on average, 400 lives are lost every year due to natural disasters, therefore the training can mean the difference between life and death.

Alongside helping the community prepare for storms, the project has also helped the community members in longer-term planning of crops to reduce the impact of disasters on livelihoods: "Some farmers can change from farming bighead carps and dorabs, which need around 10 months to grow, to farming prawns and crabs, which need only two-three months. Others are planting vegetables, such as morning glory, sweet potato or taro, which require shorter time for cultivation. If a storm comes, it does not create huge losses," adds Nguyen.



WATCH:

Moroccan women take on climate change:

SANDRA JUSTINIANO

While parts of the Amazon are in flames across Brazil and eastern Bolivia, communities in northern Bolivia are protecting their forests through a series of economic empowerment projects.

At midnight, amid screeching jungle crickets, 35-year-old Sandra Justiniano arrives at a small processing plant to start her shift extracting the pulp of Acai and majo fruits alongside other indigenous women from the community of Buen Retiro, in the northern Bolivian Amazon.

The Buen Retiro venture involves 24 women and men who process açai, majo, and cupuaçu—wild fruits from the Amazon jungle. With funding from UN Women and government partners, they have been provided with technology and assets to improve and expand production across 10 women-led enterprises, with over 240 women involved in the program.

The community where Sandra lives is predominantly indigenous and the project incorporates ancestral knowledge in the care and management of the jungle. She believes that the Amazon Forest is integral to the life and culture of her people. “We were born in the forest,” says Justiniano. “We grew up in it and now it provides us with life because our children grow up here. That’s why we must take care of it, stop the felling of trees, the burning.”.

Violeta Domínguez, UN Women Representative in Bolivia, says the project’s initial results include the economic empowerment of women and female-headed households, the strengthening of the Amazon territory, and the revitalization of the local economy. She stressed that, in many cases, women’s empowerment and economic autonomy can also help break the cycle of gender-based violence.



Many of the women involved in the project with Justiniano are single mothers with limited economic prospects.

“It has improved our incomes; we acquired new knowledge about empowerment, about our rights and finances; we learned to present projects; we know about expanding markets...,” says Justiniano. “We are able to speak in public, participate actively, present our economic proposals to the authorities, and negotiate with them. That is empowerment.”

Before the UN Women project began, the Buen Retiro venture sold 200 litres of açai juice per day, produced by hand. Now they sell up to 500 litres daily and can extract pulp for sale. They also supply the municipal government’s school breakfast program. The Association will soon present its products at national fairs in Santa Cruz and La Paz and is even negotiating with companies to supply other regions of the country.



Forest care is our responsibility"

ACTION IN THE PACIFIC



The Pacific is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Disasters affect women, girls, boys, and men differently. Recent UN Women and UNICEF research confirmed that women, children, and youth are among the most vulnerable to natural hazards, conflict, climate change, and other threats such as COVID-19.⁴ Similarly, analysis of mortality rates from recent disasters in Asia and the Pacific region show that women and girls die in greater numbers and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. Women's voice, agency, leadership, and participation are under-supported, under-resourced, and under-valued. Therefore, the expected end-of programme outcomes are twofold.

In partnership with the Australian Government, UN Women has launched the [Women's Resilience to Disasters Programme](#) (WRD). The A\$13.5 million investment will work with Pacific partners and stakeholders to strengthen women's resilience to disasters, including climate challenges and COVID-19, in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Fiji.

Aligned with UN Women's [Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#), over the next four years, the WRD Programme will support Pacific women, their governments, and other stakeholders to create and lead Pacific solutions. It will ensure gender equality, diversity and inclusion are fully reflected in prevention, preparedness, and recovery policy. By supporting women to find local solutions, the Programme will contribute to regional and global knowledge sharing, and place women at the forefront of disaster resilience.

1

Draw on the advocacy and lived experience of local women and girls to implement gender responsive policy and tools for prevention, preparedness and recovery. This will enable:

- the leadership, advocacy, and participation of women's organisations;
- increased access to knowledge, guidance and expertise on gender-responsive disaster resilience;
- a community of practice, strategic networks, and gender-responsive coordination mechanisms and partnerships.

2

Women and girls have voice and agency to withstand multiple hazards, recover from disasters, and increase their resilience to future disasters and threats, through:

- gender-responsive preparedness and early warning systems;
- locally appropriate services, and products;
- partnerships for women's resilient livelihoods and businesses;
- innovative and alternative climate and disaster resilience livelihoods for women;
- and capacity development for women's disaster and climate resilience businesses.



WATCH:

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne launches the Women's Resilience to Disasters Programme in the Pacific



“The future of the planet and humanity is in our hands.”

Source: Jane Goodall Institute

DR JANE GOODALL

In the summer of 1960, 26-year-old Jane Goodall arrived on the shore of Lake Tanganyika in East Africa to study the area's wild chimpanzee population. Now Dr Jane Goodall is a pioneer in the study of chimpanzees. As a world-renowned primatologist, humanitarian, conservationist, and United Nations Messenger of Peace, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) in 1977.

The Jane Goodall Institute is a global community conservation organisation that creates sustainable solutions to support all life on Earth. Dr. Jane Goodall discovered that when we put local communities at the heart of conservation, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. JGI advances Dr. Goodall's holistic approach through providing education programs for community and schools, promoting leadership opportunities, and supporting fundraising and conservation efforts. The Institute now has offices representing over 50 countries, which are united by a mission to support wildlife research, education and conservation for animals, people, and our shared environment. As a Messenger of Peace since 2002, Dr Jane Goodall continues to help the UN focus attention on environmental issues.

Embrace the Wild is a global community conservation program of JDI, that seeks to restore habitats and community connection to the natural world. Their mission is to help living things flourish, especially in environments that have been heavily shaped by humans. By taking achievable, meaningful actions at home or in our local communities, collectively we can all make a big difference. Embrace the Wild will inspire connectedness to the natural world and actions that will help to save it.

To celebrate Dr Jane Goodall leading our International Women's Day speaker line-up, UN Women Australia and the Jane Goodall Institute Australia are proud to provide you with an ['Embrace the Wild' resource kit](#) outlining lots of ways to notice and nurture the wildlife around you.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



WATCH:

[Climate action and women's leadership | 1 Minute video](#)



AIM:

To exercise students visual thinking and to encourage them to be more mindful about climate change.



INSTRUCTIONS:

Identify the three sustainable tools shown in this video then discuss ways to be more environmentally friendly around the home and school setting.



DISCUSSION:

Why is climate change one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century? Why is it an important topic to discuss? What are some ways to prevent it? Do you know any women within your community who are working on building a more sustainable future?

FOR HIGH SCHOOLS



"BREAKINGNEWS"



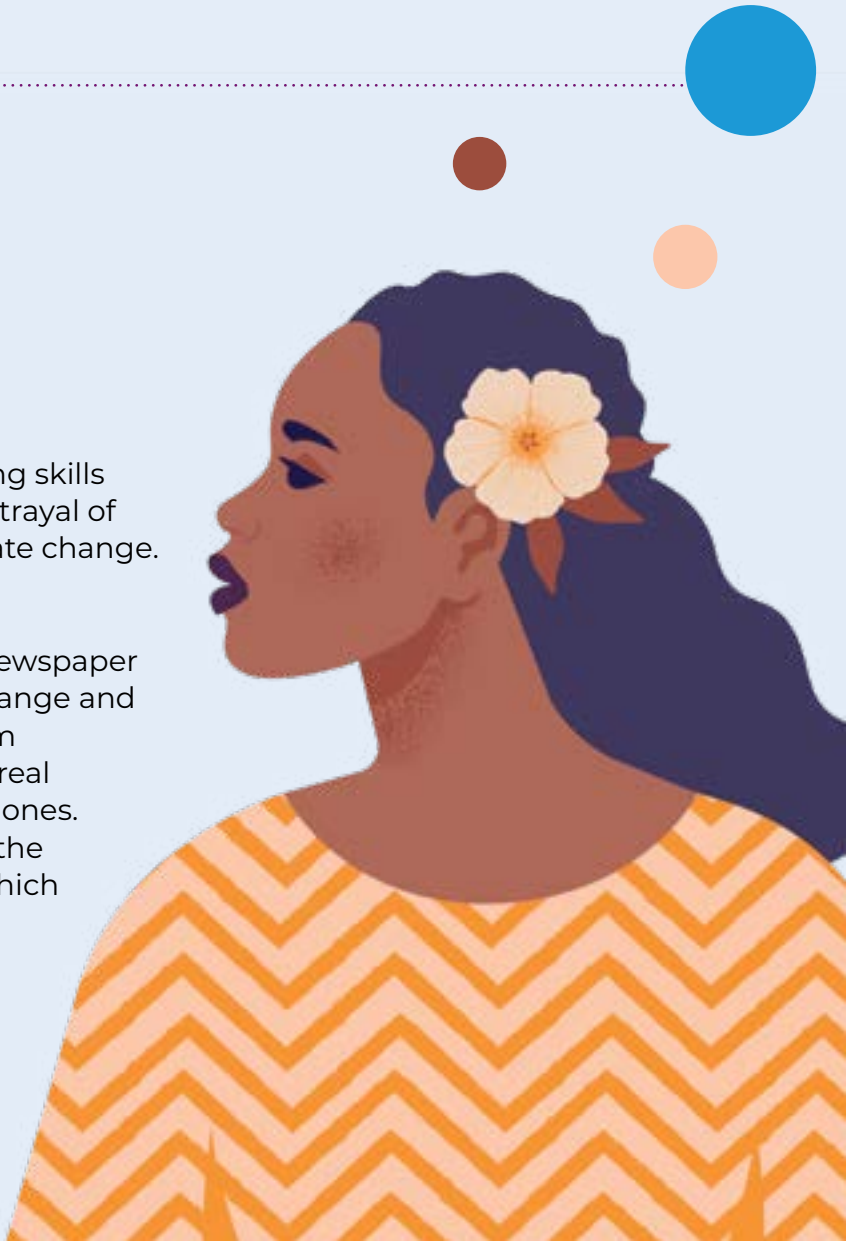
AIM:

Promoting students critical thinking skills through analysing the media's portrayal of women, gender equality and climate change.



INSTRUCTIONS:

In groups, students will research newspaper articles centred around climate change and the representation of women. From their research, they will select one real headline and then create two fake ones. The group will present all three to the rest of the class who then guess which headline is the real one.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

UN Women Australia is calling on students, just like you, to pick up the pace of progress towards gender equality by making every day count. We can all help change the climate for gender equality. Conversations are important, and funds are critical, if we are committed to accelerating gender equality for a sustainable future.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO PRIORITISE GENDER EQUALITY AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED!

1



HOST AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT IN YOUR CLASS OR SCHOOL

Help make the world safe and fair by hosting an event and raising money to support UN Women's work around the world. There are many different ways that you and your classmates can fundraise. Check out our Fundraiser Pack for ideas and [register as a fundraiser!](#)

2



ORGANISE A SCREENING OF UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA'S VIRTUAL IWD PROGRAM

Thanks to our sponsor Salesforce, if you would like to bring UN Women Australia's IWD speakers to your school or community then you can stream the event live on Friday 4 March. or up to a week later. Please contact tickets@unwomen.org.au for more information.

3



SELL PURPLE RIBBONS

Be a local leader by showing your support for International Women's Day – wear your purple ribbon with pride. Wearing a purple ribbon is a great way to demonstrate that you support gender equality to make the world safe and fair for everyone. You can help to spread the word by purchasing purple ribbons to sell or give away at your event, school or in your community.

Each ribbon sold supports UN Women's work, ensuring that everybody everywhere is treated fairly, is safe and has access to opportunities to lead and learn.

[Head to our website to purchase](#) your purple ribbons!

4



TAKE THE HEFORSHE PLEDGE

Do you think that everyone should be treated fairly and be a leader, regardless of gender? Do you want to help make that happen? Then you are HeForShe. Join the community and [make the HeForShe commitment](#) today.



STAY CONNECTED

www.unwomen.org.au

Source: Jaipal Singh/EPA



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www.youtube.com/user/UNWomenAustralia

REFERENCES ¹ <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/womenin-shadow-climate-change> ² <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/06/climate-refugees-the-world-s-forgotten-victims/> ³ Habtezion, Senay. "Gender and disaster risk reduction." United Nations Development Programme. 2013. <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB3-AP-Gender-and-disasterrisk-reduction.pdf>. <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/115038/bn-tsunami-impact-on-women-250305-en.pdf?sessionid=D7A6A8557895EAD740BDA7E31BC851DF?sequence=1> ⁴ https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf <https://www.unicef.org/media/102281/file/Global-annual-results-report-2020-gender-equality.pdf>

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