



## Center for Public Health and Climate Change



### **Enhancing Women's Leadership to Address the Challenges of Climate Change on Health and Nutrition**

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The Public Health Institute's Center for Public Health and Climate Change in collaboration with several organizations is in the process of finalizing a paper highlighting the importance of global women's leadership to address the challenges of climate change to health and nutrition. The paper will be presented at the COP17 in Durban and at <http://www.climatehealthconnect.org/>

#### **About this paper**

The agendas, programs and funding of organizations working to address climate change, global health, women's empowerment, nutrition and food security are rarely integrated. Multilateral and bilateral agencies and donors have traditionally addressed these issues in siloed approaches. At the same time, however, integrating health, climate change and food and nutrition security in climate resilient sustainable development is an essential and efficient way to ensure the well-being of communities.

This paper advances a framework that advocates for the promotion of women's leadership on climate change, health and nutrition strategies in an integrated way. This approach recognizes that strengthening women's leadership is a matter of equity and justice, attained through processes that affect and involve all members of society. We argue that social equity is a condition that benefits everyone, and that promoting women's leadership is one key pathway to achieve this goal, as well as the goal of a healthier world.

The objectives of this paper include:

- Review and identify successful strategies, policies, initiatives and interventions that address the challenges that climate change poses to health and nutrition and in which women play a key role.
- Promote women's engagement and leadership in future adaptation and mitigation policies, strategies and plans to ensure that they are gender-, as well as nutrition- and health-sensitive.

This paper includes four sections:

- The first section describes how climate change impacts health and nutrition security, including how women are disproportionately affected by these effects;
- The second section highlights the importance of women as agents of change in local, national and global efforts to enhance human health and nutrition security in the face of a changing climate, as well as the need to address gender inequalities and women's rights;
- The third section focuses on ready-to-use options for women leaders to address the challenges that climate change poses to health and nutrition;
- The last section concludes the paper and suggests a way forward.