

Climate & Care Initiative

Intersections for Systemic Change



Background

The care economy – paid and unpaid direct personal care provided to children, older persons, people with disabilities or illnesses, and indirect care involving domestic work, such as cooking, cleaning, and fetching wood or water – is vital to society. And yet, it remains invisible, undervalued, and unevenly distributed. In Latin America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), women spend three to five times more hours on unpaid care and domestic work than men.

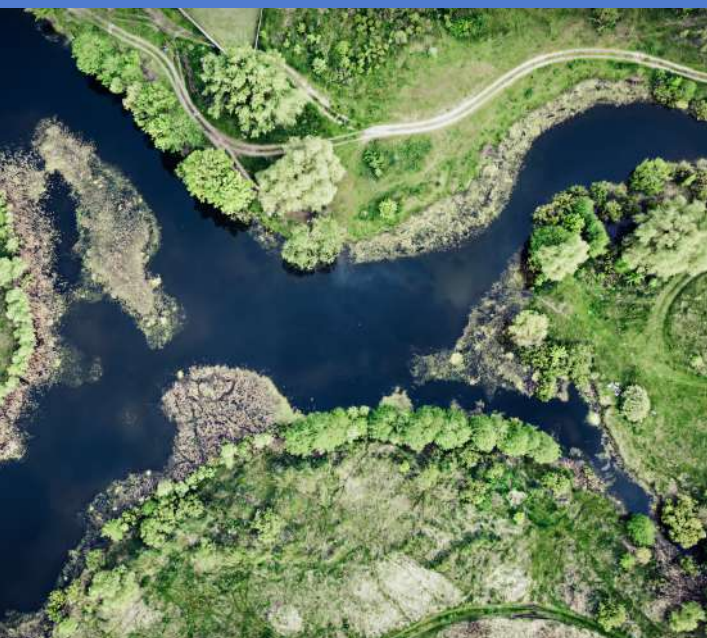
In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 16 million women are domestic workers, representing about 15% of all women doing paid work in the economy. In addition, 35% of migrant women in the region are domestic workers. In SSA, women perform 80% of the total hours devoted to unpaid care work in the household.

Evidence shows the care economy is a systemic barrier to women's economic empowerment and gender equality. Moreover, the pandemic has revealed and exacerbated the disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work that women around the world continue to bear.

The impacts of climate change – are also disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, especially women and girls in the global South. Emerging evidence suggests that climate change and environmental degradation increase and intensify unpaid care, domestic, and communal work due in part to the increased frequency and intensity of extreme climate events and the reduced availability of natural resources (such as firewood and water), and to the displacement and health impacts that increase the burden

According to recent research by UNWomen, the gendered impacts of fragile food systems, which are affected by environmental degradation, underpin food insecurity and malnutrition.

At the same time, women are at the forefront of climate action, given that many of their activities, such as composting or caring for water and biodiversity, also imply community-centred care work, which is also unpaid. Ironically, these care responsibilities curtail women's participation in climate decision-making and limit opportunities to engage in green jobs fostered by the low-carbon transition.



About the initiative

Given their interdependence for development, it is critical to address paid and unpaid care and climate change together. Yet, the linkages between them have been overlooked in policies, programs and research. This project will bring the care and climate action evidence agendas together demonstrating the interlinkages and learning from concrete practices, including those advanced by ecofeminist movements and grassroots organisations.

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Our goal

Focusing on Latin America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa, we aim to contribute to the study of the intersections between climate and care by generating evidence and actions that inform researchers, funders, and policymakers to address these crises simultaneously for a just transition.



Our Strategies



Common understanding

Create a theoretical framework on the intersection between the climate and care crisis through participatory research processes with local feminist movements and communities in LAC and SSA.



Evidence development

Generate applied research to foster learning from these solutions, making the care-climate-nexus and the contributions of eco-feminist and indigenous movements more visible.



Solutions mapping and funding

Map innovations and solutions that address the intersection of care and climate and develop a fund to financially support at least 20 of these care-centred eco-feminist and grassroots organisations working on the frontline to address these challenges.



Inform and engage

Collaborate with national and global climate policy discussions through collective, evidence-based advocacy and knowledge sharing, and foster the participation and engagement of care representatives from the Global South in international climate forums, including Conference of Parties (COPs) 29 and 30.

Get involved

Subscribe to our database and receive updates and news



Get in touch with our team to explore opportunities for collaboration

Maria Gracia Aguilar
Initiative Lead, Fundación Avina
mariagracia.aguilar@avina.net

Patricia Carmona
Initiative Lead, Fundación Avina
patricia.carmona@avina.net

 www.bit.ly/ClimateAndCareInitiativeForm

The initiative is developed by:



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