



# Climate & Care

## Initiative

Intersections for Systemic Change



In collaboration with:



With the support of:





**The Climate & Care Initiative aims to explore the nexus between climate and care through evidence generation and action through four components: creating a theoretical framework, mapping and funding care-climate practices, generating applied research, and engaging in policy advocacy.**

The Initiative is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and implemented by a consortium including the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Oxfam Canada, and Fundación Avina, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Care, focuses on Latin America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

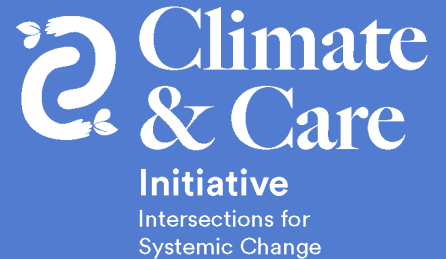


# The climate and care nexus

## Why a nexus approach?

The intersections between climate change and care work are not merely coincidental; they are intrinsically linked to issues of gender equality, economic sustainability, and social justice. These intersections are crucial for a just transition, as care encompasses not only humans but also the planet.

This nexus creates a connection that enables systemic change by linking climate and care in a meaningful, intertwined way, rather than just recognizing them as related. By integrating approaches that connect climate and care, innovative policies can be developed that expand traditional frameworks toward more comprehensive and equitable development.





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**The climate and  
care crises  
exacerbate each  
other**

- **Climate change action can increase the unequal distribution of care and its demands.** Extreme weather events and climate related health impacts mean more people need care, more frequently and with increased complexity.
- With **climate impacts degrading ecosystems comes food, water and energy insecurity** which in turn intensifies the demands of unpaid and environmental care.



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**The climate and  
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other**

- **Post-disaster trauma and stress from climate events increase care needs**, and amplifies the emotional and physical burden of care work. As well as gender-based and other forms of violence.
- **Climate actions can exacerbate care inequalities** as they may rely on increased unpaid care work, continuing the cycle of exploiting care labor.



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# How they can improve each other

- **Resilient care policies: climate-resilient care infrastructure, robust care policies, and social protection measures** can all support caregivers, and contribute to sustainable fuel, food and agricultural practices, improved air quality and water sources.
- **Women as agents of change:** women are leading climate actions, caring for the environment and promoting sustainability. They must be **supported through policies that improve the distribution and conditions of care in low-income rural areas.** Developing sustainable and inclusive innovative local solutions, such as climate-resilient community care centers and successful models of integrating care and climate action, plays a crucial role in this transition.



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# Necessary transformations

## 7Rs framework

the incorporation of a climate-related perspective to the 5R framework of care; going from a 5R approach that seeks to recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward, and represent care work to address inequalities, to a 7Rs approach that also involves planet-care related actions like resources and resilience.

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## Care lens

a multifaceted approach focusing on redistributing care responsibilities among various actors and how this redistribution can occur across different dimensions, reflecting the interdependence between care and environmental sustainability.

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## Paradigm shifts

a cultural shift and changes in gender norms are necessary. These visions should be conceptually articulated in agendas that unify common fronts (feminist, ecological, decolonial, economic, etc.) to confront the denialist and neo-conservative “cultural war.”

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## Human rights as a transversal pillar

Incorporate the human rights approach not only as a legal and normative aspect but as a fundamental pillar that influences all stages of public policies. This ensures that care-centered social protection systems become vehicles for human rights

# How to address this intersection?

**01** **Expanded definition of care**  
Redefine and broaden the concept of care.

**Care-climate nexus lens** **02**  
Rethink the care diamond to consider the different dimensions of care that are exacerbated in a climate crisis context.

**03** **Feminist just transition**  
Shift the economic system towards one that prioritizes equitable well-being and sustainability.

**Recognition and investment on decent care work as green jobs** **04**  
Formalize and invest on care workers and systems as integral members of society and as green jobs.



# How to address this intersection?

**05**

## Care in climate policy

Include targeted actions in climate policy to build resilient care systems, with representation for unpaid and underpaid care workers.

## Data collection

Expand data collection and research to fill knowledge gaps about the nexus of climate and care.

**06**

**07**

## Finance climate-care nexus

Financing mechanisms are required to implement a care-responsive Gender-Just Transition agenda.

**Learn more on our extended Climate-Care Nexus  
Conceptual Framework document**

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)