

# Ready & Resilient Futures

As part of Ready & Resilient, we connect potential futures for women and girls with Zonta's goals and the effects of extreme weather on women and girls right now. This pre-read will give you some useful background information.

## How Zonta's Commitment to Women and Girls Relates to Extreme Weather

Zonta International empowers women and girls worldwide. While not an environmental or disaster response organization, Zonta recognizes the impact of new weather extremes on women and girls, and the urgent need for action. In our pledge to empower women and girls, and to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, we must face head-on the threat extreme weather poses to access to resources, education, and safety.

Our goals include ending gender-based violence and child marriage; promoting equal access to education, resources, and decision-making leadership roles; and facilitating a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights. Here are a few examples of why understanding extreme weather is crucial to our shared goals:

- **Increased violence:** [the 2018 Madrid heatwave resulted in a 40% increased risk of intimate partner femicide, and the rate of rape of women displaced to trailer parks after Hurricane Katrina was 53.6 times the baseline rate in Mississippi](#)
- **Loss of homes and lesser influence:** [80% of people displaced by extreme weather are women, but women represent only 30% of people involved in extreme weather negotiations](#)
- **Disrupted education:** [In the aftermath of extreme weather, girls are at risk of being removed from school to gather essential resources](#)
- **Disrupted incomes:** [Heat waves are a double threat to incomes, decreasing productivity for everyone, and increasing unpaid labour for women](#)
- **Increased child marriage:** [Every 10% change in rainfall levels increases child marriage rates by 1%](#)

## Is extreme weather too politicized to talk about?

Politics is always politicized, and politicians share messages that resonate most with their supporters, sometimes even if those messages risk dividing us. Instead of looking at partisan politics, Zonta focuses on what's happening right now in the lives of women and girls. We can also take cues from less-politicized arenas. The insurance industry doesn't have any one political affiliation and has been acting on research about extreme weather for years because extreme weather has already made buildings and other infrastructure less insurable. For example, [1 in 10 Canadian homeowners cannot get basement flooding coverage because of increased risk](#). Whoever we vote for, we have all chosen to be Zontians, because we all share a commitment to empowering girls and women.

## We All Have Something Unique to Offer – And No One Has to Start From Scratch

The goals from our [Strategic Plan](#) link to recommended actions. Each club has unique skills sets, and our spring workshop offers structured ways to explore our most effective levers of change.

### Who We're Working For

You and your club empower girls and women like:



Dabor, 9, Sudan. Drought means she walks further for water each day and has no time for school.



Aayan, 11, Mozambique. Her family lost everything in the floods – she was sold into child marriage so the rest of the family could eat.



Judith, 42, Clare, 7, Canada. Wildfire smoke triggered Clare's asthma. Judith had to take time off work to care for her and is now worried she will lose her job which has no paid leave.



Ralia, 33, Nigeria. Floods destroyed the market, taking away her livelihood. How will she feed her family?



Wailani, 28, Marshall Islands. Cannot sleep at night for fear of drowning in her bed.



Maria, 79, Australia. Her heart condition is exacerbated by extreme heat. She cannot afford air condition, and worries how she will survive the summer.



Freya, 51, Germany. Two years after floods destroyed her home, she still lives in temporary accommodation and cannot afford a permanent home.

Photos: Pexels

### Find Out More

You'll find sources for the above information, personas, and more at <https://zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Resources>.