

Hotspots – The Intersection of Climate, Crisis, and SRHR

Event: ICFP Bogota Pre-Conference Event

Host Organizations: [ICFP Humanitarian & Crisis Settings Subcommittee](#), [ICFP Environment & Climate Change Subcommittee](#), Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG) and Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Executive Summary

This convening addressed the urgent need for a multi-sectoral approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) within the context of global climate change and humanitarian crises. The proceedings emphasized that fragmented systems, which separate health, climate, and humanitarian sectors, are fundamentally failing the communities they serve. While networks exist to connect SRHR to either humanitarian action or climate justice, they rarely bridge all three. In an era of shrinking international aid, and given the intersections between climate disasters and humanitarian crises, it is critical to bring the three communities together to leverage respective strengths and achieve more impactful collective action. By bringing together academic leaders, advocates, implementers, government advisors, and grassroots activists, the event sought to establish a new mandate for integrated action that prioritizes local leadership and robust evidence-based policy.

Strategic Panel Insights

The discussion was guided by an interdisciplinary panel of experts who highlighted the complex dynamics between reproductive health and environmental shocks:



Academic Leadership: Dr. Thoai Ngo (Chair, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health) moderated the session, emphasizing the use of epidemiology and data science to address complex population challenges.

National Fragility: Dr. Abdulkadir Wehliye Afrah (Ministry of Health, Somalia) provided a critical perspective from Somalia, where conflict and climate shocks intersect. He emphasized that the Somali Ministry of Health



has moved beyond fragmented approaches by establishing a dedicated department for climate and health to streamline cross-sector coordination. He noted that this structural reform is specifically designed to ensure that SRHR services are no longer "left behind" during climate-driven humanitarian crises. He also highlighted the importance of moving from "parallel efforts" to a unified movement where international aid and NGO activities are directly integrated into the national disaster plan.

Innovative Programming: Dr. Bee Brown (YLabs) focused on the intersection of climate and gender, advocating for participatory, gender-transformative programming to build resilience. She emphasized that while evidence at the climate-gender-SRHR nexus is growing, we must generate more robust data on the specific mechanisms of impact and the total resources—including the cost of inaction—required to implement solutions. She further called for a narrative shift that recognizes SRHR not just as a vulnerable sector, but as a vital tool for strengthening overall climate resilience and responding to the evolving needs and preferences of women.

Emergency Response: Dr. Diana Pulido (IPPF) shared technical expertise on strengthening service delivery and emergency response for IPPF member associations in crisis-affected settings. She explored how SRHR can serve as a vital tool for climate adaptation and resilience-building, particularly for frontline workers who are often left out of disaster coordination. She emphasized the importance of ensuring local organizations are actively involved in these coordination platforms so that the voices of the people are represented when and where disaster response is planned.

Grassroots Advocacy: Ayesha Amin (Baithak - Challenging Taboos) underscored the importance of shifting power to community-led, feminist organizations to ensure programs are rooted in lived realities. She emphasized that since climate disasters are a "lived reality," the response must be led by those experiencing them, requiring funders to move beyond convenience and overcome the financial and language barriers that exclude grassroots actors. She highlighted that women's health is often neglected before a crisis, making it critical to create spaces where local communities can define their own needs and access the resources necessary for a caring, community-led response.

Roundtable Outcomes & Specialized Deep Dives

Participants engaged in 14 specialized roundtable discussions to address specific "hotspots" of the climate-SRHR nexus. They explored, for example:

- **Advocacy in Action:** Implementing climate-crisis-SRHR messaging for key decision-makers.
- **Youth Leadership:** Practical solutions for youth in all their diversity living in humanitarian and climate-affected settings.



- **The Role of Midwives:** Understanding the unique contributions of midwives in climate-affected communities.
- **Resilient Systems:** Building healthcare systems that ensure equitable access to SRH services despite environmental changes.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Reimagining MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) for climate, humanitarian, and SRHR intersectionality.

The Three Mandates for Action

1. Advocacy & Collaboration: Dismantling Institutional Silos

The meeting identified a significant disconnect between organizational structures and the real-world experiences of affected populations.

- **Dismantle internal siloes:** Organizations must break down internal siloes among their climate justice, health, and disaster risk reduction work, moving their internal operations from parallel efforts toward a mutually beneficial, integrated movement.
- **Break down cross-sectoral siloes:** National health systems, disaster response agencies, and climate departments must move away from parallel efforts toward integrated governance. Participants called for urgent and immediate action to strengthen and incentivize collaboration at the policy level across health, disaster management, and climate agencies and stakeholders.

2. Local Action & Leadership: Community-Led Resilience

A central theme was the "pivot" from top-down aid to locally-led adaptation.

- **Barrier Removal:** International funders must actively work to remove the financial, linguistic, and accessibility barriers that currently exclude grassroots actors.
- **SRHR as Adaptation:** SRHR should be framed not just as a medical service, but as a primary tool for climate adaptation and community resilience.
- **Preparation over Reaction:** Local voices must be integrated into decision-making mechanisms *before* a disaster strikes to ensure care is culturally and contextually appropriate.

3. Research and Evidence: From Data to Policy and Practice

Generating evidence is only the first step; the final goal is actionable change in policies and practices.

- **Multi-Sectoral Solutions:** Research must move beyond highlighting problems to identifying solutions that integrate climate, SRHR, and gender.



Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises



- **Frontline Amplification:** Evidence should be used to amplify the voices of midwives, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and other frontline workers, who serve as the backbone of community resilience.
- **Global Connection:** Local successes must be connected to global movements through robust data sharing.

Formal Closing Call to Action

The meeting concluded with a firm commitment to challenge the status quo. Leaders were urged to integrate these findings into budget decisions and strategic planning immediately. The work is not limited to the conference but serves as a mandate for every conversation moving forward.

Stay Engaged Moving Forward



To continue learning about and discussing these topics, please join the [SRHR. Humanitarian Crises, and Climate Action Community of Practice](#) LinkedIn Group. You can also join the [Inter-Agency Working Group \(IAWG\) on Reproductive Health in Crises](#) and/or the [SRHR/Climate Justice Coalition](#). The YLabs [Climate-SRHR Evidence Hub](#) includes evidence and research on climate impacts on SRHR, analysis of SRHR inclusion in climate policies, regional landscape analyses, as well as case studies of solutions and strategy guidance. Their climate-SRHR MEL framework will be launching on this site in the near future.