

## **The importance of women's role in delivering, accessing and using weather and climate information services: reflections from across the WISER Programme**

WISER believes that for Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS) to be effective, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) must be central in implementation. This is crucial for WISER to achieve its long-term impact – that people and communities disproportionately impacted by extreme weather, seasonal events and climate change, in Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific, have improved resilience and response preparedness.

Research shows that women, girls and marginalised people are more likely to be negatively affected by the impacts of a climate and weather-related extreme event. And social characteristics such as disability, socio-economic, migration and displacement status, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity combine to influence who can make decisions, who can access opportunities and who loses out.

WISER aims to work with partners to ensure we understand the barriers to accessing, understanding and *acting* upon WCIS in the different contexts we work in. Through this work, we are creating more meaningful and impactful information services, that communicate and respond to the needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable.

To do this, WISER has the honour of working closely with exceptional people who are championing the crucial role of women in delivering, accessing and using WCIS.

To mark International Women's Day, we asked our partners from across the globe to share their reflections on the role and importance of women in delivering, accessing and using weather and climate services. Here are the responses:

**[Prisca Okila](#)**, *Community Associate, Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) Kenya, key DARAJA leader in Nairobi, Kenya*

**[Joyce Jelagat](#)**, *Gender and Climate Expert (NORCAP Expert)*

**[Wafae BADI](#)**, *Subseasonal and Seasonal Forecast, Climate and Climate Change Service, National Climate Center, DGM, Morocco*

**[Prudensiana Luckago](#)** – *Program Officer, Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) Tanzania, Key DARAJA leader in Tanzania*

**[Sayanti Sengupta](#)**, *Technical Advisor, Social Protection and Climate, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre on behalf of the WISER Clima-Social Project team*

**[Assoc. Prof. Pham Thi Thanh NGA](#)**, *Director General, Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology, and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*

[Dipuo Tawana](#), Acting Chief Forecaster; DRR, South African Weather Service

[Amira Nasser Mostafa](#), Meteorologist, the Egyptian Meteorological Authority (EMA)

[Sue Naisara](#), GEDSI Advisor, Weather Ready Pacific

[Laila Shahin](#), Director of Weather Forecast Directorate, Jordan

[Millicent Ondiek](#), Coordinator Tana River Gender Officer

[Cleo Bigwood](#), International Development Delivery Manager, Gender Equity & Inclusion Champion, UK Met Office

[Fredrick Owino](#), Meteorologist, Seychelles Meteorological Authority

[Nkai Karbolo](#), Agribusiness Coordinator, Cereal Growers Association, Kenya

[Marceline Gato](#), Journalist, Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), Rwanda

[Maysoon Badi](#), Acting CEO / Program Director, Sudan Urban Development Think-Tank (SUDTT), key DARAJA leader in Sudan

[Catherine Nimusiima](#), Program Manager, ACTogether Uganda, key DARAJA leader in Uganda

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[Collette Vosloo](#), Communications lead, Kulima Integrated Development Solutions

[Dr M Budimir](#), Senior Climate and Resilience Expert, Impact, Influence and Innovation, Practical Action

[Jawairia Ahmad](#), Land atmosphere scientist, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

[Adriaan Perrel](#), Economic analysis Lead, Tyrsky Consulting

[Douglas Parker](#), PI, University of Leeds and National Centre for Atmospheric Science

[Marita Monjane Saraiva](#), User engagement in Mozambique, Kulima Integrated Development Solutions

[Itzel San Roman Pineda](#), Testbed Lead, University of Leeds

[Miriam Murambadoro](#), User engagement lead in South Africa, South African Weather Service

[Kirsty Richards](#), Programme Support Officer for the WISER Africa Programme

**1. How do you feel about being a woman leading in weather and climate science?**

I feel empowered and inspired to drive meaningful change, ensuring that weather and climate science is inclusive, impactful, and accessible to all communities.

**Why is it important to ensure women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI)?**

Ensuring women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI) enhances community resilience, supports food security, and empowers them to make informed decisions in disaster preparedness and climate adaptation.



**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?**

Women can be meaningfully engaged by involving them in decision-making, providing tailored communication, building their capacity to interpret Weather and Climate Information (WCI), and supporting women-led initiatives for local adaptation.

See more from Prisca & the DARAJA project here: <https://youtu.be/LdWuGQ0GLW4>

**Key DARAJA leader in Nairobi, Kenya: Prisca Okila**

**Community Associate, Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) Kenya**



## ***2. How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?***

Being a woman in weather and climate science is both inspiring and fulfilling. It allows me to collaborate with other incredible women in the field while also engaging with resilient women who overcome challenges to build a better future for themselves and their families. As a Gender and Climate Expert supporting various initiatives in the IGAD region, including the WISER Kenya Project, I take

pride in contributing to resilience-building efforts. My work focuses on ensuring that early warning systems are not only effective but also gender-responsive and socially inclusive, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities are not left behind.

### ***Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

Ensuring women have access to weather and climate information (WCI) is crucial because they are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, making them more vulnerable to extreme weather events. Women also play a significant role in agriculture, with many relying on smallholder farming. Access to accurate, timely, and usable WCI enables them to minimize losses and seize opportunities that arise from changing weather patterns.

### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

Currently, fewer women are involved in WCI profession compared to men, highlighting the need for targeted efforts to bridge this gap. To increase women's participation, mentorship and internship programs should be promoted to encourage young girls to pursue careers in weather and climate sciences.

Co-production of WCI must be intentional about including women and creating safe and enabling environments where they, along with women-led organizations, can actively contribute to discussions and decision-making.

Women must be empowered with both the resources and capacity to access, understand and utilize WCI effectively. This includes using communication channels that are accessible to all, including women in rural areas, and addressing barriers such as language, technology, and time constraints.

***Joyce Jelagat***

***Gender and Climate Expert (NORCAP Expert)***

### ***3. How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?***

I feel privileged and proud of my work in Weather and Climate Science. It allows me to make a meaningful impact by providing relevant climate information to anticipate risks and mitigate disasters.

### ***Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

Women, in general, have a strong sense of intuition, which, when combined with intelligence (an essential trait of professionals in WCI) makes them highly valuable in science, particularly in WCI. Women in this field integrate intuition and analytical thinking, significantly enhancing innovation and progress.

### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?***

Women have a unique ability to convey impactful messages by combining rational thinking with emotional intelligence. Additionally, they often possess a well-developed artistic sense, incorporating colours, emotions, and strong communication skills. These qualities make them highly effective in the development, dissemination, and application of WCI.

### ***Wafae BADI***

*Subseasonal and Seasonal Forecast, Climate and Climate Change Service, National Climate Center, DGM, Morocco*







#### ***4. Which women have inspired you?***

Dr. Agness Lawrence Kijazi, the previous Director General of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority, is an inspiration to most women, especially her influence in weather and climate science in Tanzania.

#### ***What role do women play in your community that excites or inspires you?***

Despite their vulnerability I'm inspired that women make a significant contribution to family care, support and community leadership. For instance women play a big role in protecting household belongings from damage during bad weather.

#### ***How do you feel about being a woman leading in weather and climate science?***

It's a privilege representing other women, especially the most vulnerable, who are every so often affected by severe weather events and their voices are unheard. This increases recognition and leadership for women in weather and climate related issues.

#### ***Why is it important to ensure women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI)?***

Providing women with access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI) is important as they are the most vulnerable to severe weather impacts and they play an essential role as care givers, family support and leadership roles. This access will empower them to minimize the devastating effects of severe weather change.

#### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?***

Including the vulnerable individuals in the development, dissemination and use of Weather and Climate Information (WCI) is crucial, because they are excessively affected by adverse climate related events. This ensures their perfect needs and perspective are considered leading to more effective use of information for their protection.

See more from Prudensiana & the DARAJA project here: <https://youtu.be/qyHJG-E8LfE>

**Key DARAJA leader in Tanzania: Prudensiana Luckago – Program Officer, Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) Tanzania**

**5. Describe the role women play in the community you work with that you feel excited or inspired by about?**

WISER Clima-Social project is bringing together women across six countries and even more communities, and the depth and uniqueness of each of our experiences, keeps us inspired and excited to continue, even when separated by distance.

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?** Women are often the ones who stay behind in their communities, particularly in areas experiencing recurrent climate shocks that drive migration in search of alternative livelihoods. This makes it essential not only for women to have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI) but also to have the agency to use it effectively —both to protect themselves and to support other vulnerable groups in coping and adapting.



**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

By investing in more women-led initiatives and ensuring that women have platforms to share their voices and experiences. So, let's put this out into the universe: We want to build a global network of Women in WCI—one that transcends borders, fosters solidarity, and drives collective success.

**Sayanti Sengupta**

*Technical Advisor, Social Protection and Climate, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre on behalf of the WISER Clima-Social Project team*

## **6. How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**



It is my honour and responsibility being a woman leading weather and climate science. I am fascinated to work in this field as we together make contributions in helping people and communities to better understand the risks of severe weather and climate under the global warming challenges for efficiently preventing natural disasters and adapting to climate change. I do believe that more young female scientists have a desire to work in this interesting and challenging field for a safer community.

### ***Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

Women working in different sectors, particularly in highly weather-related areas such as agriculture, services, tourism, and health, are more sensitive and vulnerable to severe weather and climate. Women are usually responsible for taking care of family, the full access to WCI, is very useful for them to better protect their families and also help a safer community.

### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

Women have a high sense of changing, including weather and climate change. Lessons learned and experiences of developing, disseminating and using of WCI should be shared among women, working at different sectors through various channels such as media, internet, workshop, women association, participatory practices. Women should be encouraged in the decision-making process to WC related activities.

***Assoc. Prof. Pham Thi Thanh NGA***

***Director General, Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology, and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment***



## ***7. Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

In many communities, women are the primary caregivers for the elderly and children. As natural nurturers and protectors, they play a vital role in ensuring the well-being and safety of their families. Empowering women with access to WCI is crucial because they play a central role in maintaining household safety and community resilience. By equipping women with accurate and timely weather information, they can make informed decisions that protect their families and livelihoods. Women are often the first responders during emergencies, and their ability to interpret and act on climate information directly impacts their communities' well-being. Ensuring women have access to WCI also promotes gender equity and acknowledges their contributions as key stakeholders in disaster preparedness and climate adaptation.



## ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

It is essential to involve them at every stage—from the development to the dissemination and use of WCI. This includes consulting with women's groups to understand their specific needs, preferences, and local knowledge. Co-designing dissemination methods, such as using trusted community networks or familiar communication channels, fosters a sense of ownership. Training programs tailored to women's schedules and literacy levels can enhance their capacity to interpret and share WCI. Recognizing women as co-creators and decision-makers ensures the information is both relevant and accessible, empowering them to act swiftly and effectively during climate-related emergencies.

in most villages and settlements, most women are part of various groups, which can serve as effective channels for disseminating important messages. To maximize impact, we need to engage with these women, listen to their concerns, and involve them in the decision-making process. By doing so, we can tap into their local knowledge and expertise, allowing them to provide context-specific solutions to the challenges they face. Collaboration and coproduction of dissemination channel will assist them to feel like they are owning that process.

These women's groups have already demonstrated their effectiveness in promoting resilience and safety. For instance, they have successfully implemented savings schemes, protected themselves from thieves, and even established warning systems, such as blowing whistles to alert others in case of danger. Building on this existing infrastructure, we can explore ways to enhance or adapt the whistle method to provide timely warnings for weather-related hazards.



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By integrating weather-related information into their existing communication networks, we can empower these women's groups to take proactive measures, ensuring their families' safety and well-being during extreme weather events

***Dipuo Tawana***

*Acting Chief Forecaster; DRR, South African Weather Service*



## **8. How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**

Being a woman working in the weather and climate science means navigating both the scientific challenges of understanding and dealing with our fast-changing world and the societal challenges that come with being in a field historically dominated by men. I feel:

Responsible for being a part of a global effort to understand and combat climate change, Challenged for immensely getting into a field that requires long working hours, travelling long distances, and continuous learning of multidisciplinary topics, Meaningful seeing my work contributing to the global knowledge and

policy, and Joyful and excited doing research, inspiring future women in STEM, travelling around the world, and meeting new colleagues working at interconnected fields.

## **Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Climate change affects everyone, but women, especially in vulnerable communities, are often disproportionately impacted; therefore, it is important to ensure women's access to WCI. Because: Access to WCI empowers women to make informed decisions. Many women are farmers, caregivers, and community leaders; therefore, having accurate, understandable, and actionable climate data and early warnings helps them prepare for extreme weather, manage resources, and protect their families, and enhance community-wide resilience.

## **How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

Women are an integrated part of the professional and societal communities and their effective engagement in the WCI ensures the correct design, development, use, and evaluation of any WCI system. This can be done through: Encouraging more women to participate in research in meteorology and climate science and in policymaking, which guarantee that their perspectives will shape the information being developed; Engaging women in the design of WCI systems through localized and gender-sensitive communications, which ensures that those systems will be fed with women's needs in mind; Providing training on how to interpret and use climate data, which empowers women to act on the information effectively; Collaboration and partnership with women-led organizations, which assure that WCI reaches those who need it most

### **Amira Nasser Mostafa**

*Meteorologist, the Egyptian Meteorological Authority (EMA)*

## ***9. About the role women play in the community you work with that you feel excited or inspired by about***

I have worked with and continue to support grassroots diverse women in communities in Fiji and the Pacific in their various movement building work. There are many of them that push mountains and are able to connect with women in their communities to help build their agency. Many of these women have become the voice for other women in their communities, and also the voice for their communities to national and regional spaces over the years of their influencing and movement building. These have included diverse women from femLINKpacific's Womens Weather Watch (WWW) modality, and women of the Fijian Catholic Women's League, district council of social services, the Mama Ashie Project, Strumphet for Advocacy, Vanuatu Young Women for Change (VYWC) and so forth. With these organisations and collectives, and others that I haven't named, I am always inspired to hear the work that these women are leading, and how they've moved beyond their particular communities and are now leading work at sub-national or national levels. They've become that grass-root, authentic, strong voice at the national table for the herstories of other women who are not there. They've also ventured further and are offered spaces in the region and with other partners and agencies, to bring forward the lived realities of women in disasters, women in climate action or as women humanitarians. Vani Tuvuki, a grass-roots rural women leader and Women's Weather Watcher (WWW) from the province of Ba is now for instance the deputy board chair of the Fiji Council of Social Services, and is a fierce, inspirational voice in regional settings in the Blue Pacific.



### ***Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

It is important to ensure that women have access to weather and climate information services so that they are able to make informed choices and informed decisions in regard to their livelihoods and well-being and that of their children, families and communities. Ensuring that women of all diversities have access to WCI, ensures that whole families, whole communities, from the populated cities to informal settlements and to remote and rural localities and islands, are able to plan and prepare for extreme weather events, are able to mitigate the food and health security impacts that may occur from the impacts of such events, and are able to be in decision-making spaces and tables that make critical, and at times life-saving decisions. Women in villages or rural and remote localities are known as the gatherers of food, where there is dependence on them for the daily sustenance of their children, and family. Having access to WCI means being able to take action and make decisions impacting their human security and well-being.

### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

Women can be meaningfully engaged in the development and dissemination and use of WCI if they are engaged through every step and process of development and dissemination and if



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their voices are also heard and considered when looking at the impact of WCI. These can also be done through having a sustainable, consistent and mutually respectful collaboration between women's led groups and collectives, their various partners and agencies. Particular focus and regard must be done for marginalised and vulnerable women, including women with disabilities, women in rural, remote and informal settlements, indigenous women, women of diverse gender, women in conflict areas, and so on. Understanding of the intersectionality of these communities and collectives, and acknowledgement of the limitations and barriers to their meaningful and impactful engagement and participation are important.

**Sue Naisara**

*GEDSI Advisor, Weather Ready Pacific*





**10. How do I feel as a woman leading weather and climate science in Jordan?**

Leading weather and climate science in Jordan as a woman is both a challenge and a responsibility. In a society that is continuously advancing in women's empowerment, I see my presence in this field as a step toward enhancing women's participation in science and technology. My work at the Jordan Meteorological Department has allowed me to contribute to the development of weather forecasts and raise awareness of the importance of weather and climate, which is crucial for supporting various sectors, from agriculture to crisis management. I take great pride in my role and aspire to be an inspiration for the next generation of women interested in meteorology and climate science.

**Why is it important to ensure women have access to weather and climate information (WCI)?**

In a country like Jordan, where water security, agriculture, and societal stability are heavily impacted by climate changes, empowering women with climate information enhances their ability to adapt and make more sustainable decisions. For instance, women in rural areas are involved in agriculture and natural resource management, and having access to accurate weather forecasts helps them plan farming seasons and manage water resources efficiently. Additionally, ensuring women across various sectors have access to weather and climate information contributes to strengthening food security, reducing risks, and improving livelihoods.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?**

Engaging women effectively requires comprehensive strategies, including:

- Education and Training: Providing opportunities for girls to study meteorology and climate sciences while promoting women's roles in scientific research and technical careers.
- Targeted Awareness Programs: Designing outreach initiatives specifically for women, particularly in rural communities, to help them utilize climate information in their daily lives.
- Leadership and Representation: Encouraging women's participation in leadership positions within meteorological institutions to ensure that climate services are more inclusive and effective.

**Laila Shahin**

*Director of Weather Forecast Directorate, Jordan*

**11. About the role women play in the community you work with that you feel excited or inspired by about?**

Women often excel in collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches, which are essential in addressing complex climate issues that require input from various scientific, social, and policy-related fields. They often have valuable traditional knowledge about local ecosystems and climate patterns, which can enhance the relevance and accuracy of climate information.

**How do you feel about being a women leading weather and climate science?**

Women leading in weather and climate science serve as role models and mentors for young women and girls aspiring to enter the fields of climate science. They bring diverse perspectives and innovative approaches to addressing climate challenges. Their leadership can inspire future generations, promote gender equality, and enhance the effectiveness of climate science and policy. Increasing the representation of women in these areas is crucial for developing comprehensive solutions to climate change and ensuring that all voices are heard in decision-making processes.



**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Women access to weather and climate science contribute to a more inclusive, equitable, and effective approach to tackling the global challenges posed by climate variability and change.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

Engaging women meaningfully in the development, dissemination, and use of climate information is essential for creating effective and inclusive climate strategies. Some of the ways to achieve this:

Ensure that women are included in decision-making processes related to climate information. This can be achieved by creating platforms for women to voice their needs, experiences, and insights, ensuring their perspectives are integrated into climate policies and programs.

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Women are the most vulnerable by climate extreme events in the IGAD sub-region. Ensuring that they have access to WCI in their day-to-day work bring unique perspectives and experiences that can lead to more comprehensive and innovative solutions to climate challenges. It also helps in ensuring that a wide range of viewpoints are considered in decision-making processes.

**Millicent Ondiek**

*Coordinator Tana River Gender Officer*



**12. About the role women play in the community you work with that you feel excited or inspired by about?**

For me, it's being a part of, and witnessing, the real and meaningful impact women at the grassroots level have upon community engagement and uptake in the weather and climate information space. I've seen firsthand, women bravely bringing not only their unique voices to the table but striving to include others that might have been excluded previously. This vision for inclusion, the new and innovative ideas these voices bring to bear and the leadership through empathy, is what excites me about the work we do.

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

I think the answer to this is simple, and very complex all in one. At the root of the

question, is equality. Of course, all people, including women, elderly, youth and other marginalised groups should have access to WCI. But, in addition to the question of equality, enabling women to access WCI often sees a more inclusive approach to action. Women often care for the young, the elderly and other members of community. Give them the knowledge and power to act, and it's likely you'll see less members of society left behind. Moreover, *involving* women in the creation, dissemination, and feedback on WCI is also likely to yield a system that is far more inclusive and effective.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

We're working hard to explore with our partners, what meaningful engagement in the development, dissemination and use of WCI looks like at the regional, national and local levels across Africa. The answer to this should always be context specific. But as a baseline, women should be actively included in the whole process, their voices should be given space and their views, ideas and feedback should be captured in the same way that other voices are. Boys and girls should be educated in WCI and be given freedom of thought and expression at the early age. They should be trusted, respected and valued.

**Cleo Bigwood**

*International Development Delivery Manager, Gender Equity & Inclusion Champion, UK Met Office*

### ***13. Which women have inspired you?***

Professor Julia Slingo has been instrumental in advancing the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative by improving climate science, extreme weather forecasting, and risk-informed decision-making. A strong advocate for impact-based forecasting, she has promoted the use of climate information to enhance disaster preparedness. Dame Julia Slingo's career has profoundly influenced the practical application of climate science, from improving extreme weather forecasting to shaping climate policies. Her contributions have not only advanced scientific knowledge but also strengthened societal resilience to climate change. Slingo's work has bridged the gap between research and policy, enhancing societal resilience to climate change.



### ***Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

Ensuring women have access to Weather, Climate, and Information (WCI) is crucial for enhancing their resilience to climate-related risks, empowering them to make informed decisions in agriculture, disaster preparedness, and resource management, ultimately fostering gender-inclusive sustainable development.

### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

Women can be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of Weather, Climate, and Information (WCI) through participatory decision-making, capacity building, community-based networks, gender-inclusive communication, policy support, access to technology, and feedback mechanisms to ensure relevance and inclusivity.

### ***Fredrick Owino***

*Meteorologist, Seychelles Meteorological Authority*



Voices from an ECREA partner and PICSA-Lite training beneficiary:

#### **14. Why is it important to ensure women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI)?**

Women are key to building climate resilience in agriculture, yet they often lack access to critical weather and climate information. As the first to face climate shocks, they must be included in decision-making to ensure they receive the right information at the right time. This #IWD, let's empower them for a more resilient future!

**Nkai Karbolo**

*Agribusiness Coordinator, Cereal Growers Association, Kenya*



#### **Why is it important to ensure women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI)?**

I have always been a victim of lack of climate information since my childhood because of my disability. Even now, in my office, soundproofing prevents me from hearing anything, and when I step out, I find it already raining heavily. The training by ECREA is a great opportunity because it aligns perfectly with my work, I have noted several new topics that I will integrate into my program to ensure every farmer gets access to weather and climate information regardless of their circumstances.

**Marceline Gato,**

*Journalist, Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), Rwanda*



This #IWD2024, we recognize the resilience of women with disabilities in the face of climate challenges. Despite their critical role in agriculture, many are still excluded from essential climate information due to barriers in communication. Inclusive, accessible climate services are not just necessary, they are a right.

Let's work towards a future where no one is left behind in climate action.

Learn how the ECREA project is empowering women with climate information and solutions across Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania:

<https://alliancebioiversityciat.org/stories/women-youth-drivers-climate-information-action-communities>







**15. What role do women play in your community that excites or inspires you?**

I am inspired by how Sudanese women have risen amid the ongoing conflict, emerging as key players, motivators, and innovators in the recovery processes and post-shock resilience.

**Why is it important to ensure women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI)?**

Women are at the forefront of adaptation within their households and often serve as first responders in their communities. Ensuring their access to WCI and risk communication enables them to take timely early action, reducing risks and safeguarding lives

before hazards strike.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?**

To effectively engage women, Weather and Climate Information (WCI) must be accessible, understandable, and relevant to their specific needs and roles. Strengthening women's access and use of WCI not only empowers them to make informed decisions but also expands the reach of critical information, as women are often embedded in social networks and use locally adapted communication channels, bridging information gaps and enabling timely, life-saving action.

See more from Maysoon & the DARAJA project here: <https://youtu.be/TFa2tiUYdr0>

**Key DARAJA leader in Sudan: Maysoon Badi**

**Acting CEO / Program Director, Sudan Urban Development Think-Tank (SUDTT)**

**16. What role do women play in your community that excites or inspires you?**

Women in my community preserve traditional knowledge, foster environmental stewardship and mobilize community action.

**Why is it important to ensure women have access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI)?**

Access to Weather and Climate Information (WCI) enables women to make informed decisions which protects them, their families and livelihoods from potential climate risks, builds their community resilience given their social networks and community mobilization abilities thus building community resilience.



**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?**

By building their technical capacity to develop, analyse, and apply weather and climate information (WCI) in their decision-making processes, improving access to timely, relevant WCI and enhancing their capacity to manage climate-related risks.

See more from Catherine & the DARAJA project here: <https://youtu.be/8mSUNzQtTvA>

**Key DARAJA leader in Uganda: Catherine Nimusiima**

**Program Manager, ACTogether Uganda**



## ***17. Which women have inspired you?***

I'm lucky to work with a huge range of inspirational women from around the world in my role as a Science Manager in International Applied Science and Services. Most often it's the younger women who inspire me most though. They bring great ideas and huge energy to our projects and achieve so much despite having to overcome societal expectations and unconscious biases that they are not capable.

## ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

I think it's important that women's voices are listened to and acted upon at all stages of development, dissemination and use of weather and climate information services. As women make up more than half

the world's population it makes no sense for their perspectives to not be included more extensively.

For this to happen, I think we need to be challenged more on how things are done. For example, we need to encourage funders to invest in long-term programmes to really allow co-production to be done properly and we need to be more flexible to accommodate working practices in the countries that we work in partnership with. By truly working in partnership, we should all be able to share our knowledge and experiences to reach more women and other vulnerable parts of society.

***Dr Laura Burgin***

*Science Manager, International Applied Science and Services  
UK Met Office*

***18. About the role women play in the community you work with that you feel excited or inspired by about?***

Women in Thies, Senegal play a crucial role in strengthening community resilience to flooding. They are often at the forefront of preparedness, organizing community actions, and ensuring their families and neighbors are informed and protected. Despite facing social and economic inequalities, they are key actors in disaster response, supporting evacuation efforts, securing essential household items, and leading recovery initiatives. Their leadership in local adaptation strategies, such as early warning dissemination and risk reduction practices, is both inspiring and essential for effective flood management



***Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

Ensuring women's access to WCI is critical because they are often the primary caregivers and decision-makers at the household level. Without timely and accessible WCI, women are unable to prepare adequately for extreme weather events, which can increase their vulnerability and that of their families. Given that women-led households are disproportionately affected by floods in Senegal, integrating gender-sensitive approaches in early warning systems is essential to reducing loss and building long-term resilience

***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

Women can be meaningfully engaged by involving them in co-production processes for EWS, ensuring they have a voice in decision-making spaces, and designing WCI in accessible formats (e.g., local languages, audio messages, and community radio). Training programs can also empower women with the skills to interpret forecasts and take preventive action. Additionally, promoting women's representation in local flood management committees and governance structures can enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of WCI dissemination

***Alioune Ndiaye, PhD***

*Thematic Lead Climate and Resilience, Practical Action West Africa*



**19. How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**



I am an International Meteorologist and my work involves training forecasters and advising Met services in Africa. I often work with countries whose Met services are male dominated, where women do not have the same opportunities as men. I love representing the Met Office as an Expert Meteorologist, demonstrating to developing countries how valuable women can be in the Weather and Climate workspace. Without it being explicitly what I came to teach them, I know that once they have seen a strong intelligent woman leading projects for the Met Office, they will know that it is possible for them too.

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Women tend to think in different ways to men and tend to have different roles to men. If women don't have access to WCI, then their needs won't necessarily be met.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination, and use of WCI?**

Women need to be involved in all stages and all decision-making processes. We need to make efforts to meet their needs, such as bringing children to meetings, so that their voices are included.

**Rebecca Gilbert**

*RMet International Meteorologist, UK Met Office*

***20. Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?***

Women, for the most part, are still the primary carers in the household, and the ones to whom decisions re safety in the case of severe (weather) events will fall. She needs to be 'armed' with timely and accurate information for the sake of her family and others in her sphere of influence.



***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

By 1) being involved in the decision-making structures dealing with issues affecting communities - these could be disaster management structures and others; 2) being targeted for awareness-raising and education purposes to learn about weather-related issues themselves but also to teach others (train the trainers); 3) skills development (communication, presentation, safety) to enable comprehension and uptake as they share the information to diverse audiences; and 4) providing a feedback mechanism where they can share lessons learnt and community feedback received with their peers but also with the structures from where they will receive the information.

***Collette Vosloo***

***Communications lead, Kulima Integrated Development Solutions***



**21. Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Women are often more severely impacted by flooding in Senegal. Existing social norms and inequalities mean they face significant barriers to accessing, understanding and acting on early warning information that could help them to reduce the impacts of flooding. Women have a right to accessing life and livelihood saving information and can play a critical role as agents within the early warning system, particularly through informal, local networks. Women are essential actors that can support risk-informed decision making and break the cycle of disaster impacts and poverty they and their families face.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

Through the WISER programme, we are using Practical Action's Missing Voices Approach to seek out the experiences of the most marginalised, including women, to understand the barriers, needs, and opportunities to improve the flood early warning system. Their insights are raising awareness of their needs and informing the design of more equitable processes at municipal and national level. Women's networks can also play a critical role in disseminating alerts locally. By listening to women, and their diverse voices, we can advocate for additional support that may be needed to ensure women, and marginalised groups, can take action to reduce the impacts of flooding.

**Dr M Budimir**

*Senior Climate and Resilience Expert. Impact, Influence and Innovation, Practical Action*

## **22. Which women have inspired you (in WCI)?**

My female professors who taught me during grad school and peers who are making efforts to enhance climate knowledge.

## **How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**

Very content to know that my work is helping people in the world.

## **Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

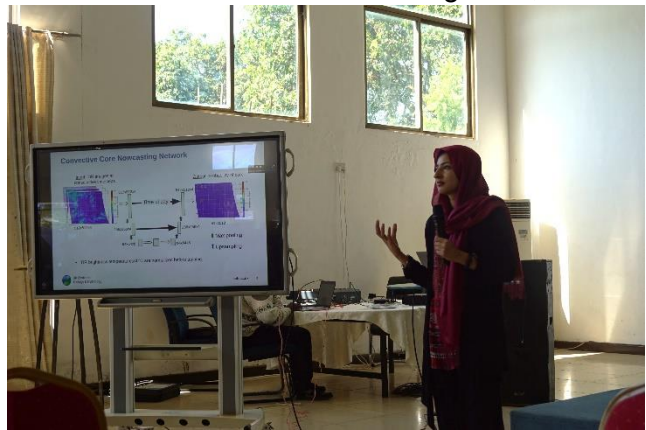
Well-informed women can make better decisions about their families' well-being. Also, women leaders can make better policy decisions if they are well-informed.

## **How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

as researchers producing the knowledge and as leaders formulating and implementing climate-friendly policies.

**Jawairia Ahmad**

*Land atmosphere scientist, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology*





**23. Which women have inspired you (in weather and climate information)?**

Beth Ebert (BoM Australia), Julie DeMuth (NCAR), Daniela Jacob (Climate Service Centre Germany), Joanne Robbins (UK MetOffice), Reija Ruuhela (FMI) - (in alphabetical order, not exhaustive).

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

In practically all countries in the World women tend to have larger (practical day-to-day) care responsibilities for people depending on them (children, elderly, patients, pupils), and hence by adequately informing them also many other lives are better protected. On the other hand, in many countries women may face setbacks in having adequate and timely access to weather and climate information services.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

Engage them directly through communication channels fitting for the context and try to empower them individually and the group wise through good information, and education as well as by building trust.

**Adriaan Perrel**

*Economic analysis Lead, Tyrsky Consulting*



## ***24. Which women have inspired you (in weather and climate information)?***

Julia Slingo, former Met Office Chief Scientist. Gill Martin (Indian Monsoon expert at Met Office). Sally MacGill (former colleague, social scientist working on risk). Estelle de Coning. Emma Visman. Katharine Vincent

### ***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

In terms of the development and the technical side of dissemination:

We need equality in scientific and technical careers, which means removing the many barriers to female advancement in science. These include practical barriers such as the need for part time options for those responsible for childcare and social barriers, such as the emphasis on competitive models in scientific discourse, or the lack of role models. Projects can help with these challenges and create models for progress.

### ***Douglas Parker***

*PI, University of Leeds and National Centre for Atmospheric Science*





**25. Which women have inspired you (in weather and climate information)?**

Marta Uetela, Greta Thunberg

**How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**

Leading in weather and climate science for me is very prestigious task, because I can have the opportunity to help raise awareness, reduce

vulnerability of many families and consequently reduce the impact of extreme events.

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

It's important to ensure women have access to weather and climate information because they are the ones who are responsible for the house and children. If they stay informed, they can be prepared and organize all their belongings, ensuring the identification documents and food in case they need to evacuate to a safe area. Most women rely on their husband's decision to evacuate. If we ensure that more women are having access to weather and climate information, we will be reducing vulnerability.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

First, women must not be left out during the capacity building initiatives organized by the disaster risk management or other authorities (there should be more representation); Next, we must remember that in developing countries within the families, women are the responsible for farming, so they must be informed about the climate to better decide which crops they should invest in.

**Marita Monjane Saraiva**

*User engagement in Mozambique, Kulima Integrated Development Solutions*

## **26. Which women have inspired you (in weather and climate information)?**

I am relatively new to the field, but I have been inspired by the incredible women working on the WISER-EWSA project. In the science domain, forecaster Gillian Keith stands out for her generosity in sharing knowledge and experience. I also admire Katharine Vincent, and the community engagement teams in Mozambique and South Africa, including Marita, Gilda, and Miriam. Additionally, the female



community observers who volunteer in the project play a vital role in distributing weather information and raising awareness about preparedness. Their dedication to saving lives, protecting properties, and safeguarding resources is truly inspiring.

## **How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**

I feel honored to contribute to this field, which is often perceived as male dominated. I am especially proud to be part of an initiative that actively works to enhance female participation at all levels of the project.

As a human geographer specialised in grassroots perspectives on development among Indigenous and vulnerable communities in the Global South, I find the WISER-EWSA research project very compelling. It takes an interesting approach by incorporating grassroots perspectives into weather information for early warning systems. Additionally, its decolonial design framework is something I did not expect to encounter in this field, making it an even more meaningful and impactful experience for me.

## **Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Ensuring that women have access to weather and climate information is crucial because they are often more disadvantaged in society and disproportionately affected by impactful weather events. Women typically bear the primary responsibility for household tasks and caregiving, which means they commute more to take care of others and manage essential daily activities. Extreme weather can disrupt these responsibilities, increasing their vulnerability and, in some cases, even leading to a rise in gender-based violence.

Access to accurate and timely weather information empowers women to make informed decisions—whether it's prioritizing tasks, ensuring the safety of their families,

planning their commutes, or making better agricultural choices (especially those depending on survival agricultural activities). For women involved in farming, reliable weather forecasts can mean the difference between securing a good harvest or suffering losses. Ultimately, weather and climate information equip women with the knowledge needed to protect

themselves, their households, and their communities, contributing to greater resilience and well-being.

***How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?***

For women to contribute to developing, disseminating, and using weather and climate information, we should integrate their perspectives and needs and enhance female participation in the field. This entails including women in the co-production of weather information, using community-based approaches in designing messages and dissemination strategies. To increase the reach of weather information among women, more research on gender-sensitive communication channels is necessary, and it is also key to building women's skills, participation and leadership in meteorology. We should consult women about their information requirements, preferences, and the challenges they face in accessing and using weather forecasts. To design dissemination strategies of weather information, it is crucial to consider female literacy levels, language barriers, and preferred communication methods among women. Training in meteorology, climate resilience, and early warning systems can empower women to take active roles in their communities. Also, addressing structural barriers that allow female discrimination and valuing women's traditional knowledge can enhance the use of weather and climate information among the female population.

***Itzel San Roman Pineda***

*Testbed Lead, University of Leeds*

## **27. How do you feel about being a woman leading weather and climate science?**



I see this as a great opportunity to work even harder, aiming to be a role model for other women, youth, and children in the communities I serve. I am passionate about simplifying the often-complex technical aspects of weather and climate science, which can be off-putting to many. I do this by using everyday examples that show how weather information can benefit their daily lives.

Additionally, I emphasize how they can contribute to mitigating the impacts of extreme weather in

their homes and communities. It's incredibly rewarding to be part of the climate science community, where I can help others understand that weather affects us all, and that it truly is everyone's business

## **Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Women must have access to weather and climate information because of the critical roles they play within households and communities. They are often responsible for the care of household members, including young children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those who are sick. Being well-informed enables women not only to prepare for extreme weather themselves but also to care for and protect those who depend on them. Additionally, women are deeply involved in climate-sensitive livelihoods such as informal market trading and agriculture. These activities rely on accurate and timely weather and seasonal forecasts to help mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and climate variability on their livelihoods

## **How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

"It is crucial to identify engagement and dissemination platforms that are both acceptable and effective for women. Not everyone is interested in scientific articles, so it's important to establish knowledge-sharing platforms at various levels that allow women to actively contribute to climate knowledge development. These platforms should integrate diverse knowledge types and forms of expression, ensuring they are flexible and inclusive of women's circumstances. Meeting times and venues should be accessible to all, especially those with household or farming responsibilities, mothers with small children, and elderly women. Engaging women requires patience, tolerance, and acceptance, and using indigenous languages is key to fostering meaningful participation. Additionally, outputs should be available in various formats, such as videos and pamphlets, in indigenous languages to ensure accessibility and understanding.

## **Miriam Murambadoro**

*User engagement lead in South Africa, South African Weather Service*





**28. Which women have inspired you?**

My mother and grandmother are both very strong independent women so I was lucky to grow up feeling like I could achieve anything I wanted regardless of my gender. From a career perspective the two previous WISER Programme Managers Rebecca McCoy & Kate Ferguson have inspired me to continue to learn and develop in this field. I also feel lucky every day to be surrounded by amazing women across the Programme who continue to inspire me.

**Why do you feel it is important to ensure women have access to WCI?**

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate and extreme weather events and therefore much more likely to die or suffer severe consequences, so I feel it is especially important that they are able to access, understand and use WCI products.

**How can women be meaningfully engaged in the development, dissemination and use of WCI?**

By ensuring true coproduction where every voice is heard and everyone is given the chance to input into the process. How to do this may vary depending on the situation and context so we should seek to understand this to enable women to engage in a meaningful way.

**Kirsty Richards**

*Programme Support Officer for the WISER Africa Programme*