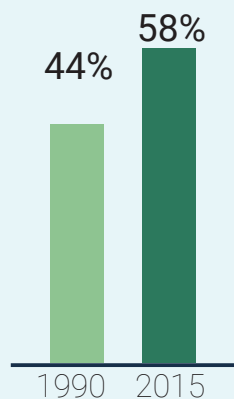


# ENVIRONMENT

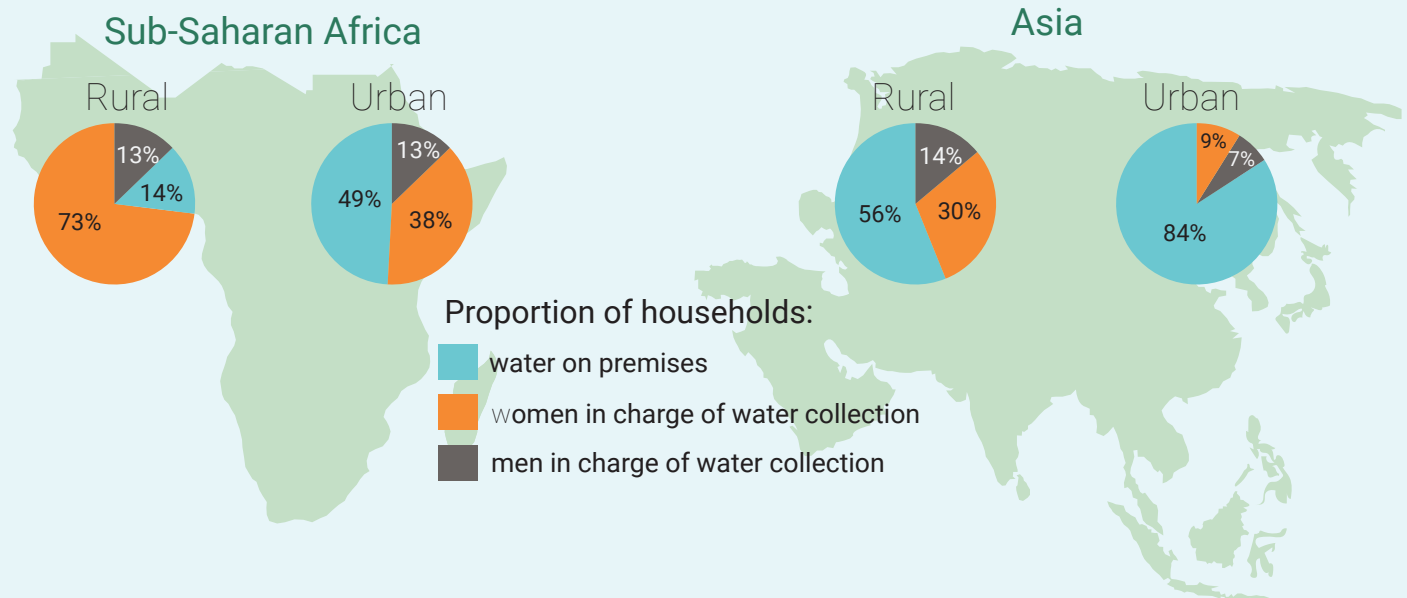
## The environment affects women and men differently due to gender inequality

Steady progress has been made in access to improved drinking water



proportion of the population with piped water on premises

Yet, access is low in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, where women are most often responsible for water collection

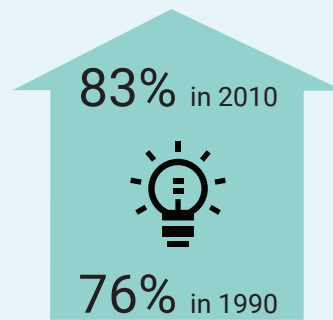


Access to modern energy services has improved

This reduces

- workload associated with household chores and firewood collection
- exposure to household air pollution

which affect more women than men



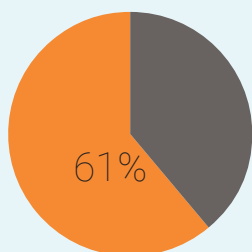
Proportion of population with access to electricity



Proportion of households using solid fuel for cooking

Gender roles and norms contribute to differences in women's and men's mortality in natural disasters, yet little data are available

2008, cyclone in Myanmar  
108,000 deaths



Gender roles and expectations that influence mortality:

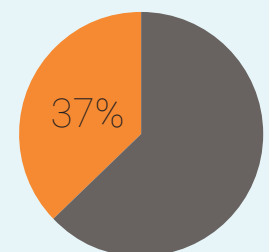
Women:

- lower access to information
- lack of swimming skills
- constrained mobility outside their homes

Men:

- risk-taking behaviour
- participation in rescue activities

2004 - 2013, natural disasters in the USA, 5,988 deaths



Men  
Women

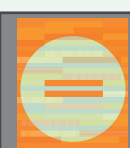
## Fewer women than men are in decision-making positions

Women account for:

33% of workforce  
19% of senior management } of national meteorological and hydrological services



36% of delegates to the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



## Environment – Key findings

- In 2015, 58 per cent of the global population enjoys the convenience and health benefits of having **piped water on the premises**, 14 percentage points more than in 1990. Despite steady improvements, the coverage of piped water in developing regions remains much lower than in developed regions – 49 per cent compared to 96 per cent. Women are more often responsible for **water collection** than men. In sub-Saharan Africa, the person usually collecting water is a woman in 65 per cent of rural households and a man in 10 per cent of households. In urban areas, the corresponding proportions are 33 and 10 per cent, respectively.
- Slow progress in access to modern energy services, including electricity and non-solid fuels for cooking, hinders significant reductions in the workload burdens associated with household chores and firewood collection, tasks that are often the responsibility of women. Between 1990 and 2010, the proportion of the global population with **access to electricity** increased from 76 to 83 per cent. However, access to electricity in Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa remains very low after two decades of slow progress, at 25 per cent and 32 per cent respectively.
- **Solid fuels** continue to be used for cooking in many regions and countries, causing smoke and solid particulate waste with health-damaging implications. The global proportion of households using mainly solid fuels for cooking decreased from an estimated 53 per cent in 1990 to 41 per cent in 2010. Solid fuels are the main type of fuel used by the majority of households in rural areas in all countries with available data in sub-Saharan Africa, in more than half of countries in Asia, and in some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, in sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of urban households in 22 out of 32 countries with data use solid fuels for cooking. Exposure to household air pollution is one of the main causes of disease globally, resulting in an estimated 4.3 million deaths in 2012. Women and men exposed to smoke from solid fuels have an increased risk of developing acute lower respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer. Women's risk to develop COPD and lung cancer is 21 per cent higher than men's risk because they spend more time than men near fire, while cooking, and more time indoors, taking care of children and domestic chores.
- Between 1995 and 2014, over 1.3 million deaths occurred as a result of storms or tropical cyclones, extreme temperatures, floods, droughts, and earthquakes. Age, sex and differences in gender roles and norms are significant factors in **mortality due to natural disasters**, but their contributions vary by country and type of natural hazard. For example, women and girls represented the majority of deceased and missing persons in the 2008 cyclone in Myanmar (61 per cent), and in the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka (65 per cent). Besides physical attributes, women's higher vulnerability was associated with lower access to information, the lack of life skills such as swimming ability, constrained mobility outside the home, and the task of taking care of children. Older persons are among the most vulnerable to heatwaves, and, in some settings, older women more so than older men. Sex disparities in deaths of older persons were also found in other natural disasters. Nearly 1000 more women than men died in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, a disparity exclusively found among the older age population. In the United States of America, however, more men than women have died as a result of natural hazards (3,777 males and 2,211 females during the decade 2004–2013), at almost all ages, suggesting that men are more inclined to risk-taking or more involved in activities that put them at risk.
- More and more people are engaging in **environmental protection activities**, including recycling and cutting back on driving to reduce pollution; overall, women tend to be more involved than men in these day-to-day activities, somewhat linked to the gender division of labour. For example, in 19 developed countries with trend data, the average proportion of women recycling increased from 61 per cent in 2000 to 78 per cent in 2010, while the proportion of men recycling rose from 58 to 74 per cent. The proportion of women driving less for the purpose of protecting the environment increased from 14 per cent in 2000 to 24 per cent in 2010. For men, the increase was from 14 to 20 per cent.
- Women remain underrepresented in **local and high-level environmental decision-making** and are underrepresented in the **workforce and management of environment-related institutions**. For example, a 2013 global survey of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of member countries of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) showed that women represented 33 per cent of the global workforce and 19 per cent of the senior management in NMHS. Moreover, women hold only a few political and non-political decision-making positions in government ministries related to the environment, including in developed regions. In Europe, for example, women are underrepresented among ministers of environment, climate change, transport and energy in ministries or departments of national governments. As at December 2014, the average share of women was 28 per cent among senior ministers and 27 per cent among junior ministers related to the environment.