

**GENDER VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOOD
SECURITY IN URBAN SLUM COMMUNITIES IN ACCRA, GHANA**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE.....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF PLATES	xiii
ABSTRACT	xiv
DECLARATION.....	xvi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	xvii
ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTORY BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Statement of Research Problem.....	1
1.3 Purpose of the Study	4
1.3.1 Aims and Objectives.....	4
1.4 Justification for Study and Contribution to the Discipline	6
1.4.1 Social Dimensions of Vulnerability Largely Unexplored	6
1.4.2 Extending the Discourse beyond the Gender Dichotomy.....	6
1.4.3 Limited Understanding of the Peculiar Vulnerability of Informal/Marginalised Settlements.....	7
1.4.4 Neglect of Livelihood Security of Urban Poor Women in Adaptation Research in Ghana.....	8
1.5 Structure of Thesis	8
CHAPTER TWO: CONTEXT OF STUDY.....	12
2.1 Introduction.....	12
2.2 Profile of Ghana.....	12
2.2.1 Geographical Location.....	12
2.2.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics	15
2.2.3 Political Administration.....	16
2.2.4 Economy	17
2.2.5 Conditions of Slum/Marginalised Communities in Accra.....	18

2.3	Climate Change Conditions, Institutional and Policy Architecture of Ghana	20
2.3.1	Climate Change and its Manifestations	20
2.3.2	Climate Change Institutional Framework.....	22
2.3.3	Existing Climate Change Policies.....	26
2.4	Gender Inequalities in the Ghanaian Society.....	27
2.5	Mainstreaming Gender in the National Climate Change Institutional and Policy Frameworks	32
2.6	Conclusion	35
CHAPTER THREE: CONCEPTUALISING GENDER, SLUM AND VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE.....		37
3.1	Introduction.....	37
3.2	Climate change: Definition, Causes and Some Potential Impacts on Cities in the Developing World.....	37
3.2.1	Social and Human Consequences of Climate Change on the Livelihoods of Urban Poor.....	39
3.3	The Concept of Gender.....	41
3.4	The Concept of Slum	43
3.5	The Concept of Vulnerability	45
3.6	Classical Approaches to Vulnerability Research.....	47
3.6.1	Risk-Hazard Perspective.....	48
3.6.2	Political Economy Perspective	50
3.6.3	Integrated Perspective.....	52
3.7	Interpretation of Vulnerability to Climate Change.....	52
3.8	Gender and Vulnerability to Climate Change.....	55
3.8.1	Gender and Participation in Decision-Making	55
3.8.2	Gender Division of Labour and Cultural Patterns	56
3.8.3	Gender Differentials in Income and Assets	57
3.8.4	Sex-Related Factors	59
3.9	Case Studies of Gender Differentiated Impacts of Climate Change	59
3.9.1	Health Impacts of Climate Change.....	59
3.9.2	Impact on Food Security.....	63
3.10	Gender and Climate Risk Perceptions	65
3.11	Gender and Adaptation to Climate Change	68
3.12	Conclusion	72
CHAPTER FOUR: METHODOLOGY		74
4.1	Introduction.....	74
4.2	Theoretical Framework.....	74
4.3	Epistemological and Ontological Underpinnings of the Study	78
4.4	The Research Strategy: The Quantitative–Qualitative Debate.....	83
4.5	The Mixed-Methods Research Approach.....	86

4.5.1	Justification for the Choice of Mixed-Methods Research Strategy	89
4.6	The Choice of Qualitative Research Methods	90
4.6.1	Review of secondary sources.....	90
4.6.2	Reconnaissance Survey/Neighbourhood Visits	91
4.6.3	Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	91
4.6.4	Selection of FGD Participants, Follow-up and Logistical Arrangements	92
4.6.5	FGD Protocol.....	93
4.6.6	Key Informant Interviews.....	94
4.7	The Choice of Quantitative Research Methods	95
4.7.1	Survey	96
4.7.2	Sampling Strategy.....	98
4.8	Data Management and Analysis	99
4.8.1	Analysing Qualitative Data.....	100
4.8.2	Analysing Quantitative Data.....	100
4.8.3	Ensuring Data Validity and Reliability.....	101
4.9	Ethical Considerations	101
4.10	Limitations of Study	102
4.11	Justification for the Selection of Study Communities	103
4.12	Socio-Economic and Environmental Profiles of Study Communities.....	105
4.12.1	Old Fadama.....	105
4.12.2	Glefe.....	107
4.12.3	Faana.....	108
4.13	Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	109
4.14	Conclusion	111
CHAPTER FIVE: PERCEPTIONS AND VULNERABILITY.....		112
5.1	Introduction.....	112
5.2	Types of Climate Hazards/Risks Experienced in Sums.....	112
5.3	Knowledge and Perception of Climate Change	116
5.3.1	Differences in Climate Change Knowledge between Study Communities. ...	116
5.3.2	Influence of Gender, Age and Education on Climate Change Knowledge ...	118
5.3.3	Synergy between Local Climate Change Knowledge and Existing Scientific Data.....	119
5.4	Socio-Economic and Institutional Drivers of Vulnerability	123
5.4.1	Quality of Housing.....	124
5.4.2	Availability and Quality of Infrastructure and Service Provision	128
5.4.3	Social Roles and Responsibilities	132
5.4.4	Accessibility to and Control over Resources/Assets.	138
5.5	Conclusion	145
CHAPTER SIX: CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY		147
6.1	Introduction.....	147

6.2	Types of Livelihood Activities in the Study Communities.	148
6.3	The Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods.....	152
6.4	Impact of Climate Change on Physical and Human Assets.....	155
6.5	Conclusion	163
CHAPTER SEVEN: ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.....		165
7.1	Introduction.....	165
7.2	Coping Strategies.....	165
7.3	Capabilities and Constraints to Adaptation	177
7.4	The Role of Local Institutions in Climate Change Adaptation	183
7.4.1	Existence of Collaborative Partnerships in Climate Change Activities	184
7.4.2	Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Adaptation.....	188
7.5	Conclusion	192
CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS		194
8.1	Introduction.....	194
8.2	Summary of Key Findings	195
8.3	Implications for Climate Change Adaptation Research and Policy-Making.....	199
8.3.1	Contributions to Knowledge	199
8.3.2	Implications for Policy-Making.....	202
8.4	Suggestions for Future Research	207
8.5	Conclusion.....	207
Appendix 1: Project Ethics Approval Letter.....		209
Appendix 2: Questionnaire		210
Appendix 3: Interview Guide for Women		224
Appendix 4: Interview Guide for Men		228
Appendix 5: Interview Guide for Local Authorities.....		231
Appendix 6: Interview Guide for the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO).....		232
Appendix 7: Interview Guide for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP)		233
Appendix 8: Interview Guide for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).....		234
Appendix 9: Interview Guide for Ghana Meteorological Services Agency (GMSA).....		235
Appendix 10: Interview Guide for People’s Dialogue on Human Settlements (PDHS)...		236

Appendix 11: Results of Mann Whitney U test on Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Survey Respondents to Protect Water Sources from Climate Hazards.	238
Appendix 12: Mann Whitney U test Results for Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Survey Respondents to Protect Houses from Climate Hazards.	239
Appendix 13: Mann Whitney U test Results for Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Survey Respondents to Protect Personal Belongings from Climate Hazards.....	240
Bibliography	241

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Roles of Main Institutions Dealing with Climate Change Issues	25
Table 2.2 Some Indicators of Gender Inequality (in percentages)	29
Table 2.3 Some Policy Documents Relating to Climate Change and Gender.....	31
Table 3.1 Two Interpretations of Vulnerability in Climate Change Research	54
Table 4.1 Fundamental Differences between Quantitative and Qualitative Research Strategies	85
Table 4.2 Organisations Selected for Key Informant Interviews and Their Role in Climate Change Adaptation	94
Table 4.3 Allocated Samples for Study Communities.....	98
Table 4.4 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents	110
Table 5.1 Type of Climate Hazards Experienced by Male and Female Survey Respondents (Multiple Response).....	113
Table 5.2 Type of Climate Hazards Experienced by Male and Female Survey Respondents by Study Area (Multiple Response).....	115
Table 5.3 Type of Climate Hazards Experienced by Male and Female Survey Respondents by Age (Multiple Response)	116
Table 5.4 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents who have Knowledge of Climate Change by Age.....	118
Table 5.5 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents who have Knowledge of Climate Change by Level of Education.....	119

Table 5.6 Type of House Occupied by Male and Female Survey Respondents by Study Area	125
Table 5.7 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents with Access to Basic Facilities by Study Area (Multiple Response).....	130
Table 5.8 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents who have Problem with Location of Toilet by Age	131
Table 5.9 Types of Domestic Duties Performed by Male and Female Survey Respondent across Study Areas (Multiple Response).....	133
Table 5.10 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents who Performed Domestic Duties by Age (Multiple Response).....	134
Table 5.11 Social Roles Performed by Men and Women in Community	136
Table 5.12 Assets Owned by Male and Female Respondents in Three Study Areas (Multiple Response)	139
Table 6.1 Livelihoods of Male and Female Survey Respondents across Study Areas...	148
Table 6.2 Livelihoods of Male and Female Survey Respondents by Study Area	151
Table 6.3 Specific Impacts of Climate Hazards on Livelihoods of Men and Women by Study Area.....	154
Table 6.4 Types of Physical Asset Affected by Climate Hazards across Study Areas (Multiple Response)	156
Table 6.5 Impact of Flooding/Rainstorm/Windstorm on Greater Accra Region, 2011 .	157
Table 6.6 Challenges Posed to Water Sources of Male and Female Respondents by Climate Hazard by Study Area (Multiple Response).....	161

Table 6.7 Diseases Experienced Frequently by Male and Female Survey Respondents across Study Areas (Multiple Response).....	163
Table 7.1 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect Houses from Impact of Climate Hazards across Study Areas (Multiple Response).....	169
Table 7.2 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect Houses from Impacts of Climate Hazards by Study Area (Multiple Response).....	170
Table 7.3 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect Personal Belongings from Impacts of Climate Hazards across Study Areas (Multiple Response)	173
Table 7.4 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect Personal Belongings from Impacts of Climate Hazards by Study Area (Multiple Response) ...	174
Table 7.5 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect the Vulnerable from Impacts of Climate Hazards across Study Area (Multiple Response)	175
Table 7.6 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect the Vulnerable from Impacts of Climate Hazards by Study Area (Multiple Response)	176
Table 7.7 Sources of Early Warning Information for Male and Female Respondents by Study Area (Multiple Response)	181
Table 7.8 Challenge/Constraints Faced by Local Authorities in Developing and Implementing Gender-Responsive Climate Adaptation Interventions in Slum Communities.....	183

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 A Map of Ghana Showing Some Important Geographical Features.....	13
Figure 2.2 A Map Showing the Ecological Zones of Ghana	14
Figure 2.3 A Map Showing the Topography, Flood and Drainage Vulnerability of Slums in Accra	20
Figure 2.4 Scenario for Mean Sea Level Rise (Taking Present Trends into Account).....	21
Figure 3.1 UN-Model Depicting the Poverty-Slum Nexus	44
Figure 3.2 Framework Depicting Risk-Hazard/Outcome Vulnerability	49
Figure 3.3 Framework Depicting Political Economy/Contextual Vulnerability	51
Figure 4.1 Gender-Climate Change Framework.....	75
Figure 4.2 Research Methodology and Structure	104
Figure 4.3 A Map of Accra with an Arrow Showing the Location of Old Fadama	106
Figure 4.4 A Map of Accra with Blue Arrow Showing Locations of Faana and Glefe .	108
Figure 5.1 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents who have Knowledge of Climate Change by Study Area	117
Figure 5.2 Perceived Meaning of Climate Change by Male and Female Survey Respondents.....	121
Figure 5.3 Perceived Periods for Climate Hazards by Male and Female Respondents across Study Areas	122
Figure 5.4 Average Rainfall and Temperature for Accra (1994-2014)	123
Figure 5.5 Types of Home Maintenance Activities Undertaken by Male and Female Respondents across Study Areas	128

Figure 5.6 Percentage of Male and Female Respondents with Access to Basic Facilities across Study Areas	129
Figure 5.7 Percentage of Male and Female Respondents who spent more than One Hour per day on Domestic Duties (Multiple Response).....	135
Figure 5.8 Percentage of Male and Female Respondents Belonging to Social Associations by Age	141
Figure 5.9 Types of Assistance Received by Male and Female Respondents from Social Associations across Study Areas (Multiple Response)	142
Figure 5.10 Percentage of Male and Female Respondents aware of Local Decision Making Structures by Study Area	144
Figure 6.1 Percentage of Male and Female Respondents whose Physical Assets were Negatively Affected by Climate Hazards by Study Area (Multiple Response).....	158
Figure 6.2 Challenges Posed to Water Sources of Male and Female Survey Respondents by Climate Hazards across Study Areas.....	160
Figure 7.1 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Respondents to Protect Water Sources from Flooding across Study Areas (Multiple Response).....	166
Figure 7.2 Strategies Implemented by Male and Female Survey Respondents to Protect Water Sources from Flooding by Study Area (Multiple Response).....	167
Figure 7.3 Factors Underlying the Choice of Coping Practices of Male and Female Respondents across Study Areas (Multiple Response)	177
Figure 7.4 Percentage of Male and Female Survey Respondents who Received Early Warning Information by Study Area.....	178

Figure 7.5 Sources Through which Male and Female Respondents Received Early Warning Information across Study Areas (Multiple Response).....	179
Figure 7.6 Schema of Collaborative Institutional Arrangements for Climate Change Adaptation Policy Development and Implementation	187

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 5.1 Congestion and Unsanitary Conditions in Old Fadama.....	126
Plate 6.1 Women Carting Water in a Canoe from Neighbouring Community to Faana	162
Plate 7.1 Water Storage Tanks Mounted on a High Platform in Glefe to Protect Water from Floods.	168
Plate 7.2 Sandbags Laid Along the Beach in Glefe to Protect Houses from Sea Inundation.....	172

ABSTRACT

Climate change remains a major development challenge for cities in the developing world due to their limited capacity to prepare for and to cope with its impacts. It is recognised that the impact of this phenomenon will be distributed differently among regions, ages, income groups and women and men living in cities. In Ghana, the marginalised majority, particularly women living in slums or marginalised communities bear the brunt of the climate change impacts. In spite of this, adaptation research in Ghana has focussed on the livelihoods of rural women to the detriment of poor women living in hazardous urban spaces. Yet, the challenge posed by climate change to urban residents in Ghana cannot be adequately met without understanding its gender dimensions.

This study explored the role of gender in shaping men's and women's vulnerabilities to climate change in three urban slum or marginalised communities in Accra, Ghana. A mixed methods design was used to collect quantitative and qualitative data which included 350 survey respondents, 7 key informant interviews and a number of focus groups. The findings of this study showed that climate change poses serious environmental hazards to residents of slum communities in Accra. However, in spite of their exposure to similar hazards, results showed that respondent perceptions regarding the causes and impacts of these hazards are gendered. Women in comparison to men showed a low level of awareness about climate change, even though it impacted negatively on their livelihoods. Women tended to more vulnerable because of the vulnerable location of their livelihood activities, limited access to productive resources, poor conditions of housing, low participation in localised adaptation decision making, as well as the heavy domestic responsibilities placed on them. The findings also demonstrated that men and women had different capabilities for coping with climate change which have resulted in different adaptive capacities. Although a number of local institutions were involved in building the adaptive capacities of slum residents, there were weak collaborative partnerships among these institutions to ensure effective gender mainstreaming in adaptation policy planning and management.

This study concludes that it is imperative for adaptation policy makers to consider the important role of gender in determining different levels of vulnerabilities among slum residents in order to develop appropriate adaptive strategies that address gender-differentiated vulnerabilities.

DECLARATION

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMA	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
CBD	Central Business District
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DFID	Department for International Development
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
G4	Ghana Goes for Green Growth
GBV	Gender- Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
GSMA	Ga South Municipal Assembly
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HBE	Home- Based Enterprise
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAs	Local Authorities
MEST	Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MGDs	Millennium Development Goals
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MoFEP	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan

NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NALAG	National Association of Local Authorities.
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NCCC	National Committee on Climate Change
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCCPF	National Climate Change Policy Framework
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NREG	Natural Resources and Environment Governance
PDHS	People’s Dialogue on Human Settlements
SBS	Budget Sector Support
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWD	Social Welfare Department
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WEDO	Women in Environment and Development Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation