

Empowering Women and Advancing Social Justice in Palestine: Integrated Pathways for Water Security, Climate Resilience, and Sustainable Development

This policy paper studies the interconnected crises of water insecurity, climate vulnerability, and gender inequality in Palestine. It uncovers how Israeli occupation and institutional barriers inversely impact women, who encounter limited decision-making power (12% representation) despite bearing 60% of agricultural labor and spending up to 6 hours daily collecting water. With 97% of Gaza's groundwater undrinkable, the analysis suggests gender-responsive reforms, including governance quotas, women-led climate adaptation projects, and transboundary water diplomacy. The policy paper provides applied recommendations to promote water justice, climate resilience, and women's leadership in achieving SDGs 5, 6, and 13.

Keywords: Water governance, gender equality, climate resilience, Palestine, occupation

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Empowering Women and Advancing Social Justice in Palestine: Integrated Pathways for Water Security, Climate Resilience, and Sustainable Development

1. Executive Summary

- This policy paper, commissioned by the Palestinian Women Water Network (PWWNet), presents an integrated and gender-responsive framework for addressing interlinked challenges of water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development in Palestine. It positions women's leadership, equitable water governance, and regional cooperation as critical levers for social justice and environmental sustainability.

Drawing on a multidisciplinary analysis, the paper identifies how water scarcity, political occupation, climate change, and institutional fragmentation intersect to exacerbate gender inequalities and socio-economic vulnerabilities, particularly for women and marginalized communities in Palestine. It critiques existing water governance arrangements—particularly the Joint Water Committee—and calls for structural reforms to enable inclusive, transparent, and rights-based decision-making.

The paper is grounded in a rights-based approach and informed by national statistics, regional trends, and global evidence from UN-Water, IPCC, FAO, and OECD. It examines the gendered dimensions of climate adaptation and highlights the underrepresentation of women in water-related institutions, policies, and negotiations at national and regional levels.

Key findings reveal:

- Palestinian women are disproportionately affected by water and climate crises but remain underrepresented in governance and decision-making.
- Current governance mechanisms lack inclusivity and transparency, hindering climate-resilient and socially just water management.
- Regional cooperation on transboundary water is hampered by asymmetrical power dynamics and lack of enforceable accountability mechanisms.

The policy paper proposes four strategic pathways:

1. **Gender-responsive governance** that redefines institutional mandates and strengthens accountability mechanisms.
2. **Transformative climate adaptation** strategies that center local knowledge and community resilience.

3. **Equity in transboundary water diplomacy** through regional platforms for cooperation and legal reform.
4. **Women's leadership and labor inclusion** across all levels of the water sector, supported by targeted capacity building and legal guarantees.

By synthesizing evidence and offering actionable policy recommendations, this paper aims to support Palestinian stakeholders and regional partners in building a future where water security, gender justice, and climate resilience reinforce each other.

2.Introduction

2.1 Background

Water governance is critical for sustainable development, yet many communities—especially marginalized groups—are excluded from decision-making. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faces extreme climate vulnerabilities, including water scarcity, rising temperatures, and desertification. Women and girls are disproportionately affected due to socioeconomic inequalities and gender roles.

Palestine is experiencing a deepening crisis at the intersection of water insecurity, climate change, and gender inequality which shapes climate change vulnerability and adoption. There is an argument by Denton that women and men experience climate impacts differently due to structural socio-economic disparities, cultural norms, and unequal power dynamics. Ignoring these gendered dimensions in climate policy risks worsening existing inequalities and undermining effective adaptation.

Women—especially in rural and marginalized communities—are disproportionately affected due to their traditional roles in water collection, agriculture, and domestic care (PCBS, 2021). Yet, they remain systematically excluded from decision-making in water governance and climate adaptation processes (UN Women, 2020).

The intersection of gender, agriculture, and water scarcity in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region was examined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its 2021 report, which highlights how structural gender inequalities exacerbate women's vulnerability to water insecurity, limiting their agricultural productivity and livelihoods.

The report calls for gender-responsive policies to improve water management, enhance food security, and empower rural women in the face of climate change and resource depletion.

In addition, the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) provides a comprehensive global assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies. The report underscores the escalating risks posed by climate change to ecosystems, human settlements, and socio-economic systems, emphasizing the urgent need for equitable and transformative adaptation measures.

Moreover, The World Bank's 2023 report examines how inclusive water governance can improve efficiency, equity, and climate resilience. It highlights case studies from low- and middle-income countries, focusing on women, indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers, and urban poor communities.

This policy paper addresses these intersecting challenges by proposing integrated, gender-responsive, and rights-based policy solutions aimed at advancing water security, climate resilience, and social justice.

2.2 Problem Statement

Palestine faces a multidimensional water and climate crisis with deep gendered impacts, driven by the following factors:

Water Insecurity: In Gaza, 97% of groundwater is undrinkable (WHO, 2023).

Women and girls spend up to 6 hours daily fetching water, limiting their access to education, health, and livelihoods (PCBS, 2021). This does not mean that the situation in West Bank is any better, it will be reflected in the analysis section.

Legal and Social Barriers: Discriminatory laws on inheritance and land ownership restrict women's access to and control over vital water and land resources (UN Women, 2020). Even though Islam the official religion of Palestine guarantees these rights in addition to many international conventions

Governance Gaps: Institutional fragmentation and limited inclusion of women and marginalized groups hinder effective, gender-responsive water governance. Despite CEDAW ratification, only 12% of climate-related decision-makers are women (World Bank, 2022).

Climate Vulnerability: Women—60% of the agricultural workforce—lack land rights, irrigation, and climate-adaptive tools (PCBS, 2021). Rising temperatures (1.2–4°C) and rainfall declines (20–30%) by 2050 threaten agriculture (World Bank, 2022).

These overlapping challenges demand integrated, gender-just solutions to advance water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development in Palestine.

2.3 Objectives

1. Provide an Evidence-Based Gender Analysis of the Water-Climate Nexus
Gender-disaggregated assessment of water scarcity and climate vulnerability in marginalized Palestinian communities, using PCBS datasets and feminist political ecology frameworks.
2. Identify Institutional and Legal Barriers to Gender Equity
Map and analyze a minimum of five structural barriers—legal, institutional, and socio-economic—that constrain women’s access to water resources and limit their participation in climate governance processes.
3. Evaluate Scalable Models for Women’s Empowerment in Water and Climate Action
Assess at least three replicable, women-led or women-focused initiatives aligned with SDGs 5, 6, and 13, highlighting success factors and scalability potential.
4. Develop Integrated Policy Recommendations for Gender-Responsive Water and Climate Governance
Produce a policy brief outlining at least 10 actionable recommendations to embed gender equality and social justice in national water security and climate resilience strategies.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Water Security and Gender in Palestine

Existing literature underscores the severe water crisis in Palestine, where occupation policies and geopolitical conflicts restrict access to natural resources (Trottier, 2013). The Gaza Strip faces acute water contamination, with 97% of groundwater unfit for human consumption (WHO, 2023), forcing reliance on expensive and unreliable alternatives. Studies reveal that women and girls spend up to six hours daily collecting water (PCBS, 2021; UN Women, 2020), significantly limiting their opportunities for education, economic participation, and healthcare.

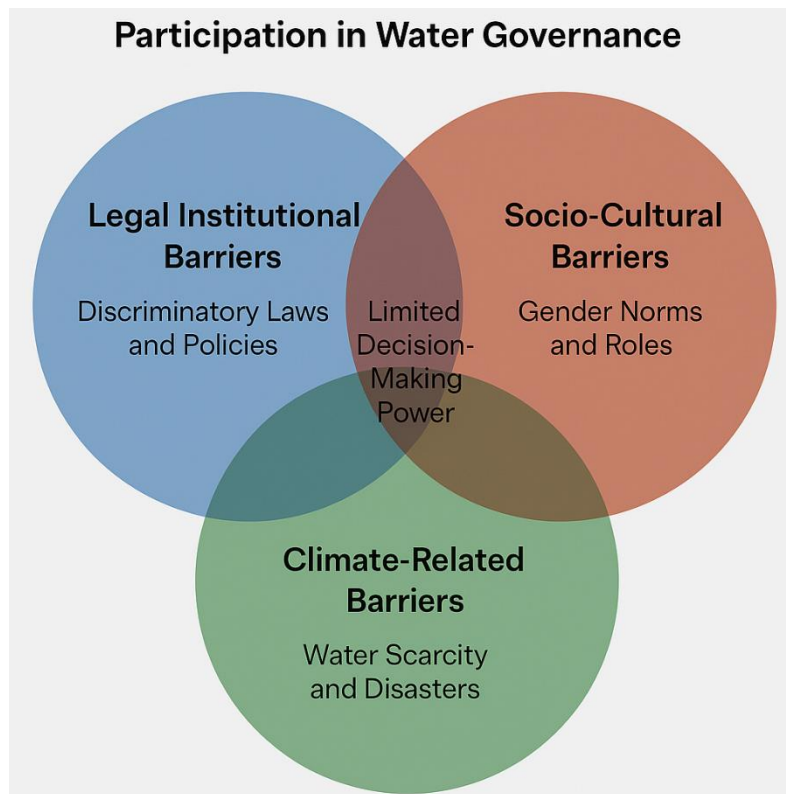


Figure 3.1: Participation in Water Governance

Selby (2013) highlights how hydro-political conflicts exacerbate gender disparities, as women are systematically excluded from water management decisions. For example, the Joint Water Committee (JWC), established under the Oslo Accords, is dominated by Israeli authorities, leaving Palestinian communities—especially women—without representation in critical water allocation decisions.

3.2 Climate Change Impacts and Gender Vulnerability

Climate models project a 1.2–4°C temperature rise in Palestine by 2050, coupled with 20–30% declines in rainfall (IPCC, 2022). These changes disproportionately affect women farmers, who constitute 60% of the agricultural workforce but lack access to irrigation technology, land rights, and climate adaptation resources (FAO, 2021).

**Women’s Representation
in Government Coordination
Mechanisms and Working Groups
on Climate Change and the
Environment in Palestine**

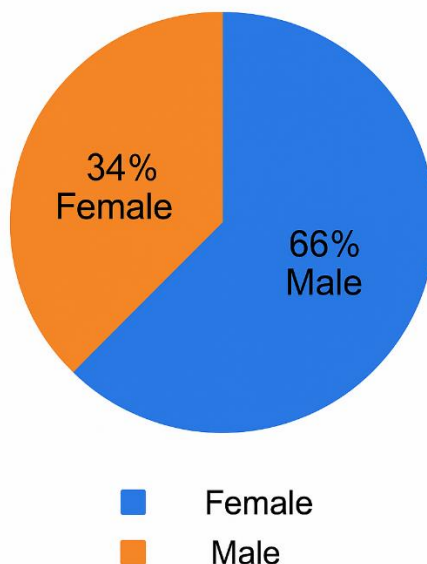


Figure 3.2: Women’s Representation in Government Coordination mechanisms and Working Groups on Climate change and Environment in Palestine

In working groups and coordination mechanisms focused on climate change and the environment, women comprise 34% of participants, while men represent 66%.

Key Takeaway: While women's participation in these forums is higher than in standalone leadership roles, a notable gender imbalance persists, with men occupying nearly two-thirds of the positions.

Denton (2002) argues that climate adaptation policies often neglect gendered vulnerabilities, reinforcing inequalities. In Palestine, only 12% of climate decision-makers are women (UNEP, 2022), reflecting systemic exclusion. The absence of women's voices in policy design leads to solutions that fail to address their needs, such as the lack of childcare support during water collection or gender-blind agricultural training programs.

3.3 Gender-Responsive Policy Frameworks: Global and Regional Insights

International best practices demonstrate that empowering women in water governance improves resource sustainability and climate resilience (Sorenson et al., 2011). For example:

- Jordan's gender quotas in water committees increased women's participation by 40%, leading to more equitable service delivery (World Bank, 2020).
- Morocco's women-led cooperatives enhanced climate resilience through rainwater harvesting, boosting agricultural yields by 25% (UNDP, 2021).
- South Africa's 30% quota policy raised female participation in water governance from 7% to 28%, reducing system downtime by 40% (World Bank, 2023).

However, Palestinian women face legal barriers to land ownership (PCBS, 2022), limiting their agency in water management. Customary laws and discriminatory inheritance practices further restrict their access to resources, perpetuating cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

3.4 Synthesis of Existing Evidence

Key Findings from Global Reports

1. UN Water (2022): Highlights stark inequalities in water access, with women in low-income communities 3x more likely to lack safe water than men.
2. OECD (2021): Identifies institutional design weaknesses, such as fragmented governance and lack of gender-disaggregated data, as major barriers to equity.

3. World Bank (2023): Advocates for inclusive models, showing that each $\$1$ invested in women's leadership yields $\$3-8$ in improved water system outcomes.

Case Study Insights

- Nepal: Mandating 50% female participation in water committees increased access by 35%.
- Kenya: Decentralized water kiosks managed by women's cooperatives reduced costs for slum residents by 50%.
- Rwanda: Gender-sensitive climate adaptation programs increased women's farm incomes by 30%.

3.5 Gaps in Literature

While studies highlight the gendered impacts of water insecurity and climate change, few address:

1. Intersectional vulnerabilities (e.g., refugee women, rural vs. urban disparities).
2. Political barriers under occupation, such as Israeli control over Palestinian water infrastructure.
3. Scalability of localized women-led initiatives in protracted conflict settings.

This review underscores the urgent need for gender-transformative policies that address structural inequalities while leveraging women's knowledge and leadership in water and climate governance.

Next Steps: The methodology section will detail how this paper builds on these insights through mixed-methods research, including case studies from Palestine and comparative policy analysis.

4. Methodology

This policy paper employed a multi-method qualitative approach combining desk research, data analysis, and policy review to construct a gender-just and climate-resilient water governance framework relevant to the Palestinian context.

4.1 Desk Review and Literature Synthesis

A comprehensive desk review was conducted to examine:

- Global and regional frameworks on water governance, gender, and climate change (e.g., SDG 6, SDG 5, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework).
- Key reports from UN agencies, including UN-Water, UNDP, FAO, and UN Women.
- Peer-reviewed academic studies, regional think tank publications, and policy papers.

This review enabled a cross-scale synthesis of relevant normative and policy frameworks, highlighting gaps in gender integration, institutional coordination, and regional water cooperation.

4.2 Analysis of National and Regional Data

The paper draws on quantitative and qualitative data from:

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) datasets on labor force, gender indicators, and water access.
- Climate risk assessments and water resource reports from the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), and Environment Quality Authority (EQA).
- Regional statistics from ESCWA and Arab Water Council.

Gender-disaggregated labor data, climate exposure indices, and governance indicators were analyzed to identify vulnerabilities, labor market gaps, and institutional weaknesses.

4.3 Policy and Institutional Mapping

An institutional mapping exercise was conducted to assess:

- Governance mandates, coordination mechanisms, and gender integration in key institutions based on PCBS statistics.
- The extent of women's participation and representation in national and regional water decision-making bodies.
- Legal and policy frameworks guiding water diplomacy and transboundary cooperation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

This mapping allowed for the identification of structural asymmetries, institutional exclusions, and missed opportunities for reform.

4.4 Feminist Political Ecology Lens

The analysis is grounded in a feminist political ecology perspective, which emphasizes:

- The interlinkages between gender, power, and environmental governance.
- The differentiated impacts of ecological and political crises on women and marginalized groups.
- The necessity of challenging hegemonic and technocratic approaches to water governance in favor of rights-based, inclusive, and equitable alternatives.

This lens informed the framing of challenges and guided the formulation of strategic pathways and recommendations.

5. Findings & Analysis

This section synthesizes critical evidence and insights across five interlinked domains—water governance, climate resilience, gender equality, socio-economic marginalization, and regional geopolitics—highlighting systemic gaps and strategic opportunities to advance integrated, just, and inclusive development in Palestine and the MENA region.

5.1 Exclusionary and Fragmented Water Governance Structures

Water governance across Palestine and MENA is hampered by fragmented institutional frameworks, under-resourced public utilities, and exclusion of women, indigenous communities, and marginalized groups from decision-making.

In Palestine, overlapping authorities in the West Bank and Gaza, unclear water rights, and heavy reliance on international aid compound governance dysfunction and inequity. Key institutions lack legal mandates for inclusion, and unregulated informal water providers create parallel systems that often bypass public accountability and safety standards.

5.2 Gendered Vulnerability to Climate Change and Water Insecurity

Women in Palestine and across the region face heightened climate vulnerability due to gendered social roles, unequal access to land, credit, and information, and disproportionate burdens in water collection, caregiving, and food production.

Climate shocks intensify unpaid care work, compromise maternal and child health, and expose women to displacement and livelihood loss, especially in agriculture-dependent and water-scarce communities.

Gender-blind adaptation strategies often fail to address these disparities, excluding women from resource access and climate resilience efforts.

5.3 Persistent Gender Inequalities in the Labor Force and Access to Resources

Women in Palestine experience low labor force participation (19%), high unemployment (43%), and systemic workplace exclusion, compounded by limited childcare, unsafe transportation, and low legal protection.

Only 41% of employed women have formal contracts; the majority lack social security, pensions, and safe reporting mechanisms for harassment.

Legal and cultural restrictions further inhibit women's ownership of land and productive assets, restricting access to irrigation, training, and cooperative memberships essential for resilience-building.

5.4 Structural Asymmetries and Politicization of Water under Israeli Occupation

The Joint Water Committee (JWC), established under Oslo, has perpetuated unequal water governance. Israel retains de facto veto power over Palestinian water infrastructure while bypassing Palestinian oversight for settlement-related projects.

Mekorot, the Israeli water company, systematically prioritizes settler needs over Palestinian communities, and military restrictions inhibit Palestinian control over aquifers and watershed development.

This asymmetry undermines Palestinian water sovereignty and directly obstructs long-term development planning, particularly for women-led agricultural and livelihood projects in marginalized areas.

5.5 Institutional and Policy Gaps Undermining Gender-Responsive and Climate-Resilient Development

Governance institutions in Palestine and the wider MENA region remain largely gender- and climate-blind, lacking disaggregated data, inclusive budgeting tools, or mandates for women's leadership in climate adaptation.

Women's voices are notably absent from formal water user associations, irrigation boards, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) committees.

Poor inter-ministerial coordination and insufficient investment in gender-transformative infrastructure (e.g., public childcare, safe water access) stall inclusive resilience pathways.

5.6 Intersectional Exclusion of Marginalized Groups from Water Access and Governance

Refugees, informal settlement residents, Bedouin communities, and people with disabilities face multiple and compounded barriers to water access and participation in governance.

Climate-related risks—such as floods, droughts, and contamination—exacerbate existing inequities due to poor planning, militarized water zones, and discriminatory land use policies.

Lack of gender-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data prevents effective service targeting and adaptation measures.

5.7 Missed Opportunities in Regional and Global Climate and Development Agendas

Many national and regional climate adaptation plans are not gender-responsive, and climate finance mechanisms often fail to reach women-led initiatives or grassroots organizations.

Nature-based solutions (e.g., wetland rehabilitation, agroecology) and decentralized solar-powered water systems remain underutilized despite their co-benefits for women and communities.

The current development paradigm remains reactive and project-based, rather than rights-based and rooted in long-term, equitable resilience.

5.8 Strategic Entry Points for Integrated, Inclusive, and Just Pathways Forward

To realize integrated pathways for water security, climate resilience, and social justice in Palestine:

Legal and Institutional Reform: Streamline mandates across water institutions; remove legal barriers to women's land and water rights; and embed gender equality clauses in water, land, and climate policies.

Women's Leadership and Capacity Building: Institutionalize gender quotas in water governance bodies and invest in long-term technical training for women and young professionals in climate and water sectors.

Financing and Service Equity: Direct climate finance and public investment toward women-led infrastructure (e.g., solar desalination, greywater reuse), and regulate informal water systems to ensure safety and affordability.

Community-Led and Gender-Responsive Planning: Enable participatory planning that centers the voices of rural women, refugees, and youth, and uses gender-disaggregated data to inform all project cycles.

Regional Solidarity and Policy Coherence: Mobilize cross-border cooperation on climate and gender justice, and advocate for Palestine’s water rights within regional platforms and UN frameworks, especially those upholding the human right to water (UNGA Resolution 64/292).

6. Policy Recommendations

Consolidated and streamlined set of comprehensive policy recommendations to advance gender-responsive water and climate governance in Palestine, eliminating repetition while maintaining all key elements:

6.1 Institutional and Legal Reforms

- Quotas and Representation: Mandate gender quotas (e.g., 30-50%) for women in water committees, climate policy institutions, and local governance bodies, including youth and indigenous representatives.
- Anti-Corruption Measures: Strengthen transparency using OECD indicators and public audits of water utilities.
- Legal Alignment: Reform national laws to align with CEDAW, guaranteeing women’s rights to land, water, and inheritance. Establish legal aid services for enforcement.
- Customary Rights: Recognize customary water rights alongside formal legal frameworks.

6.2 Financial and Economic Empowerment

- Targeted Funding: Direct 30% of climate adaptation finance to women-led cooperatives and community water projects (e.g., rainwater harvesting, solar desalination).
- Pro-Poor Mechanisms: Implement subsidized tariffs and microcredit programs for women farmers to adopt water-saving technologies.
- WASH Investment: Increase national funding for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure by 4x, prioritizing underserved communities.

6.3 Capacity Building and Education

- Technical Training: Provide women with skills in climate-smart agriculture, water conservation, and renewable energy.
- Leadership Development: Launch mentorship programs and scholarships for women in water/climate sciences.
- Curriculum Integration: Incorporate gender and climate modules into national education systems.

6.4 Inclusive Governance and Participation

- Participatory Tools: Use citizen juries, mobile apps for leak reporting, and digital platforms to engage marginalized groups.
- Family-Friendly Policies: Adjust meeting schedules and provide subsidized childcare to enable women's participation.
- Accountability Mechanisms: Create public dashboards to track utility performance and gender-disaggregated project outcomes.

6.5 Climate Resilience and Data

- Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: Allocate 50% of adaptation funds to water security (e.g., drought/flood early warning systems).
- Biodiversity Protection: Prioritize nature-based solutions that benefit both ecosystems and communities.
- Data Disaggregation: Collect and publish water access/quality data by gender, income, and ethnicity (using PCBS methodologies).

6.6 Urgent Global and National Actions

- Scale Up Finance: Mobilize international cooperation to meet adaptation funding gaps (<10% of developing nations' needs).
- Emission Cuts: Advocate for immediate reductions to limit irreversible climate damage.
- Mainstream Gender: Integrate gender equity across sectors (agriculture, health, urban planning).

6.7 Key Cross-Cutting Priorities

- Awareness Campaigns: Partner with media and religious institutions to educate on women's rights to resources.
- Transport Solutions: Introduce women-only transportation to improve access to meetings and training.
- Political Inclusion: Amplify women's voices in global forums (e.g., COP) and local decision-making.

By implementing these measures, Palestine can transform systemic barriers into opportunities, positioning women as leaders in climate resilience and water governance while advancing SDGs 5, 6, and 13.

7. Conclusion

The policy paper argues that water justice in Palestine requires gender justice—centering women's knowledge in solutions while challenging occupation policies. Addressing water insecurity and climate vulnerability in Palestine requires a transformative, inclusive approach. Empowering women as agents of change is not only a matter of rights and justice—it is a pathway to building resilient communities and achieving sustainable development. This policy paper provides a framework for policymakers, civil society, and development partners to act collectively toward a just and sustainable future. It also argues that effective climate action must be feminist—addressing structural inequalities while leveraging women's knowledge and leadership, by applying

7.1 Key Principle

- Inclusive water governance leads to more sustainable and equitable outcomes.

7.2 Strategic Priorities

A. Legal and Institutional Reforms

- Implement gender audits of water laws and policies to identify disparities.
- Introduce legal reforms that recognize women's rights to water access and participation.

- Promote unified, transparent water governance across sectors and territories.

B. Capacity Building & Leadership

- Develop and expand women's leadership training in water management and diplomacy.
- Ensure meaningful participation of women and marginalized communities in water decision-making bodies.

C. Infrastructure Investment & Innovation

- Urgently allocate funding to repair critical water infrastructure (estimated at \$500 million, UNRWA).
- Prioritize large-scale desalination initiatives (e.g., Gaza Central Desalination Plant) and unblock stalled projects.
- Fund women-led infrastructure solutions (e.g., solar-powered desalination systems in Gaza).

D. Regulation & Monitoring

- Improve regulation of private water vendors to reduce contamination risks and pricing abuse.
- Enhance data transparency, disaggregated by gender and locality, to support evidence-based decision-making.

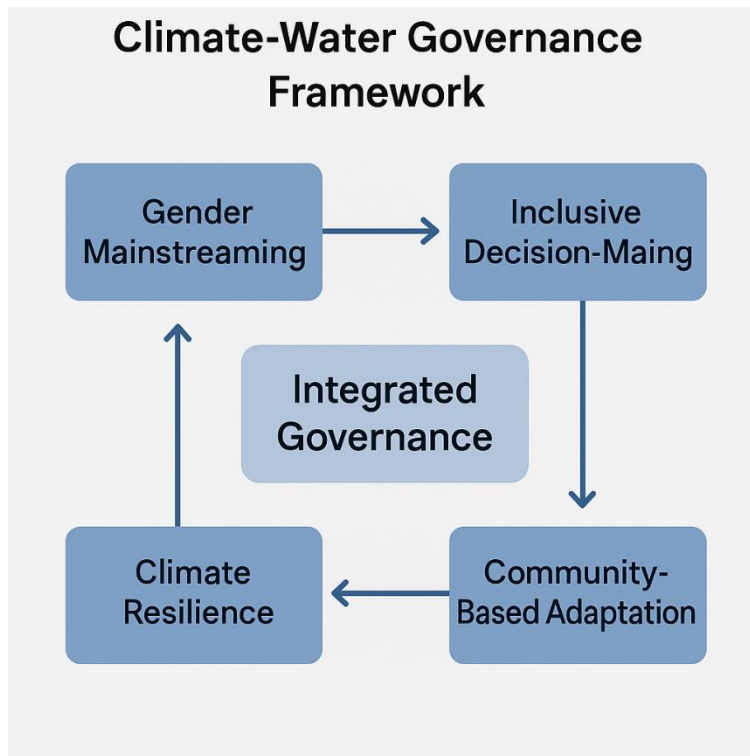
E. Climate Adaptation

- Adopt adaptive, climate-resilient water policies tailored to local vulnerabilities.
- Integrate traditional ecological knowledge and community-based practices into climate responses.

F. Financing & Partnerships

- Leverage public-private partnerships (PPPs) to scale sustainable infrastructure.
- Mobilize targeted funding for gender-just water solutions and inclusive climate adaptation.

Figure 7.1: suggester Climate -Water Governance framework



7.2 Political & Human Rights Advocacy

- Apply international pressure on Israel to comply with obligations under UN Resolution 64/292, recognizing the human right to safe and clean drinking water.
- Advocate for international support and accountability for violations of water rights in Palestine.

This policy paper concludes that water conflicts in Palestine cannot be resolved without addressing the broader political context of Israeli occupation and Palestinian dispossession. True water equity requires political change, not just technical or economic solutions.

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Appendices

Appendix1: Summary of Key Case Studies on Gender, Water, and Climate Resilience

Case Study	Country/Region	Focus Area	Key Highlights	Relevance to Palestine
1. Women Water Champions in Jordan	Jordan	Gender leadership in water governance	Women played leadership roles in local water committees; improved water efficiency and community trust; supported by GWP-Med & Sida.	Offers a model for empowering Palestinian women through community-based water governance.
2. Gender-Responsive Water Users' Associations in Nepal	Nepal	Inclusive governance	Increased women's representation in Water Users' Associations led to improved irrigation outcomes, equitable water allocation, and reduced conflict.	Demonstrates how legal frameworks and quotas can promote equitable governance in water-scarce areas.
3. Women and Peacebuilding	Senegal Basin (West Africa)	Transboundary water diplomacy	Women facilitated cross-border dialogues	Illustrates how women's participation enhances cooperation

Case Study	Country/Region	Focus Area	Key Highlights	Relevance to Palestine
in the Senegal River Basin			and cooperation on water issues, linking climate resilience with peacebuilding.	in shared water resources – relevant for JWC reform.
4. Women in WASH Committees in Uganda	Uganda	Rural water access and hygiene	Women-led committees improved hygiene awareness, access to clean water, and infrastructure maintenance.	Shows how grassroots women's leadership improves service delivery – applicable in Area C of Palestine.
5. Community Water Management in Cochabamba	Bolivia	Water justice and privatization resistance	Women's activism was pivotal in resisting privatization; they advocated for water as a human right and promoted public participation.	Connects water justice and social mobilization, relevant to resisting unequal water allocation and privatization trends.
6. Climate-Smart Irrigation and Gender in Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Climate adaptation and agriculture	Gender-inclusive climate-smart irrigation schemes boosted	Highlights how climate adaptation strategies can be tailored to women farmers' needs in Gaza and the Jordan Valley.



Case Study	Country/Region	Focus Area	Key Highlights	Relevance to Palestine
			productivity and women's economic empowerment.	

Appendix V: Case Study — Jordan’s Gender Quotas in Water User Associations

Title	Advancing Women’s Participation in Water Governance through Quotas
Location	Jordan
Implemented By	Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation, with support from development partners (e.g., GIZ, USAID)
Objective	To institutionalize women’s participation in local water user associations (WUAs) and improve the equity of water governance

Activities

- Introduction of a **mandatory quota policy** requiring a minimum percentage of women in WUA boards
- Capacity-building for women on water governance and negotiation
- Technical assistance to help WUAs develop inclusive water allocation plans
- Monitoring and evaluation of gender impacts on decision-making and water distribution | | **Outcomes** |
- Women’s participation in WUAs increased by **over 40%**
- Improved water allocation efficiency and responsiveness to community needs
- Elevated women’s voices in irrigation planning and conflict resolution
- Social acceptance of women as legitimate water decision-makers expanded in rural areas | | **Relevance to This Paper** |

Jordan’s experience provides a transferable model for **quota-based reforms** to the Palestinian Joint Water Committee (JWC) and other decision-making bodies. It highlights how institutional policy shifts can open space for women’s leadership. |

Appendix VI: Case Study — Women-led Climate Cooperatives in Morocco

Title	Women Building Climate Resilience through Cooperative Water Solutions
Location	Morocco (semi-arid regions including the Atlas Mountains and southern provinces)
Implemented By	Local women’s cooperatives, with support from UNDP and national ministries
Objective	To empower rural women to implement climate adaptation strategies, particularly related to water harvesting, sustainable agriculture, and economic independence

Activities

- Formation of women-led cooperatives focused on **rainwater harvesting**, soil restoration, and eco-farming
- Training in climate-smart agriculture, solar pumping, and greywater reuse
- Access to microfinance and legal aid to secure land and cooperative rights
- Community advocacy to increase women's role in municipal climate planning |

| Outcomes |

- Reduced climate vulnerability in drought-prone areas through water-efficient practices
- Increased income for women through the marketing of organic produce and handmade goods
- Strengthened women’s agency in both environmental and economic domains
- National policy dialogues began to recognize the contribution of women’s cooperatives to climate adaptation | | **Relevance to This Paper** |

This example demonstrates how women’s grassroots leadership can serve as a **climate resilience strategy**. It offers concrete, community-led practices relevant to Palestine’s own rural climate adaptation needs. |