



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Friday, 8th March 2024.

International Women's Day is globally celebrated on **8th March** each year to honor the achievements and contributions of women throughout history. It raises awareness about gender equality, women's rights, and highlights the challenges women face worldwide. The 2024 International Women's Day's theme is "**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.**"

One of the most defining challenges facing women today is that of the climate crisis which reinforces pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. Women are pivotal in advancing climate action. We call for investment in women's education and empowerment at all levels to spur and accelerate their contributions in development and addressing the consequences of climate change.

Women are the world's primary care-givers hence uniquely placed to address the climate catastrophe though they suffer its most deadly consequences.

Water collection, firewood collection, cooking, cultivation, giving birth, child rearing and other household chores make them more vulnerable than men to climate change as it increases women's care-giving workload leaving them with little for education and skill development—perpetuating cycles of poverty, vulnerability and inequality.

Women suffer most from the health impacts of climate change such as food insecurity. Extreme weather events like floods, prolonged droughts, earthquakes and landslides result in loss and damage; death and injury. Such events also trigger or spread some diseases.

Investing in women is building climate resilience. Giving women education, leadership opportunities, and equal participation in decision-making processes is good for people and planet.

Women implement green projects and champion climate initiatives in their communities. They do tree-planting projects to combat deforestation and promote biodiversity; and undertake clean energy initiatives, like solar microgrids for sustainable power and reducing reliance on fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas).

On this **International Women's Day**, we call on governments, businesses, and communities to invest in women to turbocharge the fight against climate change.

End.