



# GRRIPP

Gender Responsive  
Resilience and Intersectionality in  
Policy and Practice

# ECOSYSTEMS IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT WITH A GENDER APPROACH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COLECTIVA FEMINISTA PARA EL DESARROLLO LOCAL, FUNDACIÓN GUATEMALA, UNIÃO DOS MOVIMENTOS DE MORADIA DE SÃO PAULO

EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA Y BRAZIL

## Context

Water is a key ecosystem, as it sustains life. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the depth of water access inequality became clear. Multiple campaigns of care and protection against the pandemic emphasised the need to disinfect and to wash hands. Yet, a large proportion of the population lacked, and continues to lack, this vital resource to meet daily needs, let alone additional needs generated by COVID-19.

This situation has affected and continues to affect women directly, as traditional roles and gender stereotypes continue to overburden women with domestic and caregiving tasks, including everything related to the COVID-19 health and safety measures promoted in each State.

Faced with this situation, women's groups in various spaces, in coordination with grassroots leaders, were protagonists in creating different options and solutions. For example, women devised ways to comply with sanitary safety measures while managing water saving. Such water access adaptation is an example of resilience that

has been developed by women for their families and community collectives.

## Objectives

The project's main objective was to contribute to strengthening local women actors in their resilient struggle for the right to the city and public policies, especially in the right to water and the protection of ecosystems. Through this objective, the project aimed to further develop women's skills and expertise regarding environmental care practices – particularly for women from grassroots organisations.

## Courses of action

- Specialised training of municipal personnel, community leaders, and local authorities was promoted. This training concerned the right to the city and disaster risk management with a gender perspective in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*The photograph was taken as part of the regional campaign "Weaving feminisms for good living in cities and territories."*

*Credits: Colectiva Feminista*



- Awareness-raising was carried out in coordination with municipalities, women's and youth organisations, and universities to recognise women's contributions to advocacy for the right to water and environmental protection.
- Experiences of women's participation in community water management were systematised as a strategy for solving COVID-19 related daily domestic and care needs.

### Approach

The project carried out its activities under the approach of the right to the city in dialogue with the gender perspective, the feminist approach, and intersectionality. The right to the city was considered a macro right that encompasses other rights such as access to drinking water, decent housing, health, work, a dignified life free of violence, and care. Starting from this perspective implies recognising that societies are unequal and that gender relations are constitutive of this inequality and structure the organisation of social life, which finds its expression in the city.

We worked from the perspective of ecofeminism, which implies a cross between ecology and feminism. It was considered key to addressing the problems in urban contexts in the face of the extractive neoliberal model which is detrimental to the territories. In this sense, it is considered that feminisms and environmental issues feedback to each other intrinsically because they have a common origin of struggle: subordination, control, and violence. In this sense, ecofeminism connects women's oppression with nature's domination and

proposes the emancipation of all people based on the critique of androcentrism and anthropocentrism.

### Impacts

The pandemic has made visible the fragility of care-work agreements, the necessity of these tasks, the dependence that societies have on unpaid care, and the disproportionate burden placed on women and girls in these areas.

A course was developed consisting of 03 modules that address the approaches the institutions worked on in their local contexts. The Guatemala Foundation designed the first module entitled "Sustainable Agriculture." The União Nacional de Moradia Popular de São Paulo created the second module entitled "Women and housing, water and feminisms in the territories." Finally, the Colectiva Feminista developed the third module entitled "Women's political participation in defense of the territory". Through this course, set in three journeys, 75 local actors strengthened their competencies in their strife for the right to the city, access to housing, water, and the strengthening of food systems and the protection of ecosystems.

The campaign "Weaving Feminisms for Good Living in Cities and Territories" was developed to highlight the importance of women's right to access diverse, inclusive, and sustainable ecosystems and cities.

#### Published resources:

- Systematisation document from the project "Ecosystems in the management of disasters with a gender approach in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic" – Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala

Available: [www.gripp.net/lacdigitalresources](http://www.gripp.net/lacdigitalresources)

## Ecosystems in disaster risk management with a gender approach in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local de El Salvador;  
Fundación Guatemala; União Nacional por Moradia