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Bachelor thesis

**Crisis Within a Crisis: GBV in the Age of
Climate Change**
The Role of Civil Society – A Case Study



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Abstract

Climate change has in the last 10 years been linked to increased gender based violence (GBV), particularly in vulnerable communities. However, the research conducted on the intersection is limited, leading to insufficient recognition of the issue within the international community as well as the civil society. This study examines how INGOs (Kvinna till Kvinna & IRC) and Kenyan NGOs (Samburu Women Trust, COVAW & GROOTS Kenya) address GBV as a risk of climate change, comparing strategies, priorities and challenges. Using a qualitative case study approach, data collected through interviews as well as desk research, analyzed using a thematic analysis. Framing theory as well as Feminist Political Ecology was used abductively throughout the thesis. The findings reveal that the INGOs are policy driven in the sense that they are theorizing the events to create evidence, bringing attention to the topic to interest donors and the international community. Whereas the NGOs advocate for the grassroots organizations using women's experience as evidence. The main challenge for both perspectives is how well they are perceived in different areas of the society. Lastly, the prioritization of the strategies aim to be where the context analysis says it needs to be but due to obstacles such as funding and anti-gender narratives, the development process operates at slow pace. However, due to the research conducted in the last decade, the intersection is now proven, leading to that addressing and researching the topic is crucial for a sustainable development.

Keywords: Climate change, Gender Based Violence (GBV), Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), International Non-Governmental Organization



| | |
|--|-----------|
| Introduction | 5 |
| Research problem, Relevance and objective..... | 6 |
| Research questions..... | 7 |
| Literature review | 7 |
| Theoretical framework..... | 9 |
| Conceptual framework..... | 11 |
| GBV..... | 11 |
| Climate hazards..... | 12 |
| Methodological framework | 12 |
| Thematic analysis..... | 13 |
| Data collection method..... | 16 |
| Introduction to the non-governmental organizations..... | 17 |
| Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK)..... | 17 |
| The International Rescue Committee (IRC)..... | 18 |
| Samburu Women Trust (SWT)..... | 18 |
| The Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)..... | 19 |
| Grassroot Organizations Operations Together In Sisterhood..... | 19 |
| Ethical considerations..... | 19 |
| Limitations and Delimitations..... | 20 |
| Findings | 21 |
| Diagnostic frame..... | 21 |
| INGOs..... | 21 |
| NGOs..... | 25 |
| Prognostic frame..... | 27 |
| INGOs..... | 28 |
| NGOs..... | 32 |
| Motivation framing..... | 35 |
| INGOs..... | 36 |
| NGOs..... | 38 |
| Analysis | 39 |
| Feminist perspectives on environmental justice..... | 40 |
| Feminist perspective on political ecology..... | 41 |
| INGOs/NGOs..... | 41 |
| International community / INGOs and NGOs..... | 43 |
| Government/ INGOs and NGOs..... | 45 |
| Feminist perspective on development..... | 46 |
| Conclusion | 49 |
| Reference list | 51 |



List of Tables

Table 1: Coding

Table 2: Translation

Table 3: Development of the themes



Introduction

Increased Gender Based Violence (GBV) as a consequence of climate change has been studied more focused since 2015 (Malivel, et al., 2024, p.3). However, the issue is not discussed nor addressed to full extent (Kvinna till Kvinna, 2022a; p.6). The link between GBV and climate change is discussed in several steps in different ways, in this thesis it will be discussed with Kenya as a case study, where flooding and droughts occur more frequently than ever before. Additionally, according to the article “*Climate change and gender-based violence -- interlinked crises in East Africa*” written in World Bank Blogs, the stress brought on by drought is a driver for more conservative patriarchal practices such as child marriages and other forms of GBV (Soliman, Carlsson Rex, Warren, 2022). Furthermore, setting the scene of the case study with a deeper insight to the happenings in Kenya. The temperature in east Africa will rise faster than the rest of the world as an effect of climate change. Though climate change adaptation strategies have potential to make an impact, the temperature increase poses threats to crop production. Kenya is dependent on its agricultural sector in the sense that it stands for 26% of the GDP. Agricultural production is a major factor in the economy and 98% of the crop produced in Kenya is rain fed which increases the vulnerabilities for climate change, especially the food and nutrition security on the household level. In the past years the rainfall in Kenya has decreased and malnutrition as well as food insecurity has increased, particularly for smallholder farmers (Ndiwa et al., 2024;02). Though, the impact of climate change is not neutral or equal, it depends on geographical location, socioeconomic groups, gender as well as other factors (Awiti, 2022).

Though Kenya has put in efforts to prevent GBV in the country, at least 500 women and girls have been murdered in Kenya since 2016. This is revealed to be a recurring pattern which has its roots in systematic issues. The most likely perpetrator in these reported homicides are current or former intimate partners as well as family members (UN Women, 2024). The deep structural



inequalities limit the abilities to exercise basic rights leads to increased vulnerabilities and maintains the gender based power relations (Camey et al., 2020: 28, 29).

This study will look deeper into the strategies concerning GBV as a consequence of climate change in the perspective of the INGOs, Kvinna till Kvinna and International Rescue Committee as well as the Kenyan NGOs, Samburu Women Trust, COVAW and GROOTs. The study will look deeper into the similarities and differences concerning defying the link, strategizing, challenging as well as analysing the operational factors determining the actions made by the INGOs and NGOs regarding GBV as a risk of climate change. Additionally, using frame theory as well as Feminist Political Ecology theory abductively throughout the thesis, connects the findings into the analysis. Concluding the thesis with the final assessment that the issue of GBV as a risk of climate change is not addressed to the extent that women and girls are protected due to it is not put into action on the international level. However, due to the increase of interest and discussion concerning it during the past years, organizations such as the ones examined in this study have a crucial role of continuing the work even in adversity.

Research problem, Relevance and objective

The link between GBV and climate change is a newly researched, growing global concern due to its worsening inequality and insecurity (Desai and Mandal, 2021:138). The link between theory and practice in this issue is not discussed to full extent in the sense of discussing it without pursuing it (Kvinna till Kvinna, 2022a:6). The study is limited to the case study of Kenyan NGOs and international NGOs, due to Kenya being one of many countries experiencing an increase of climate change related weather hazards which as stated increase existing gender inequalities (Hayakawa, 2024). In rural Kenya, women are experiencing the crisis rather than discussing it, making the issue emergently crucial to investigate the issue (Samburu Women Trust, 2022c). Despite growing research on GBV as a climate risk,



there is insufficient alignment between international frameworks and local realities. This study examines how INGOs and local NGOs strategize to mitigate GBV risks during climate crises, identifying operational challenges and bridging the gap between policy and practice. By contributing to this discussion, the research aims to support more integrated and actionable strategies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The objective of this study is to analyze the foundation behind the strategies used internationally and locally concerning GBV as a risk of climate change. By investigating how different stakeholders conceptualize and address the intersection between GBV and climate change, the thesis aims to contribute to the discussion on mitigating GBV as risks related to environmental stressors.

Research questions

- How do INGOs and local NGOs define the link between GBV and climate change, and what strategies do they prioritize?
- What are differences and similarities in strategies between INGOs and local Kenyan NGOs in addressing GBV as a risk of climate change ?
- What are the key challenges faced by these organizations when working on GBV and climate change issues?
- What contextual or operational factors are behind any differences in the approaches?

Literature review

Several reports during the last decade have proven the link through research including surveys targeting, among other methods, rural Kenyan women. In



the article *“Kenyan Women Bearing the Cost of Climate Change”* (Allen, et al, 2021), the link is connected through several climate disasters all over the world, such as hurricane Katrina, heatwaves in Spain and Cyclones Vania and Atu that hit Vanuatu, whereas the last mentioned proved the link with a 300% increase in new domestic violence victims seeking help at women's shelters. The article further examines the link in Kenya through surveys, proving that sexual and physical violence increased in the aftermath of climate crises. (ibid, p.1-5). Though there have been studies made on the linkages between GBV and climate change, the issue is highly understudied in social aspects. Within the article *“Understanding the complex linkages between climate change and gender-based violence”* (Bonilla-Anariba, et al. 2024) it is expressed that there is a crucial need for further research within the area. It is further stated that climate change may not only drive physical violence but psychological, in the sense that there is an increased risk of men adapting controlling behaviors which can cause both mental and physical violence towards women (ibid, p 1-3).

Furthermore, in the article *“Climate change exacerbated sexual and gender-based violence: role of the feminist foreign policy”* (Mandal, 2024), it is stated that there is a gap in security related foreign policy making due to it rarely mentions gender aspects, even though women and girls are more affected by crises due to climate change. In relation to this, the article further highlights that women face heightened real-life challenges as a consequence of natural disasters, especially being vulnerable to SGBV. However, international law does not provide any international instrument that deals with SGBV during and after climate change-induced disasters. This is further mentioned as a crucial need for development to be addressed within the field of international law. The article moves further into acknowledging the successions in having the nexus of climate change and SGBV on UN agendas such as the UNMISS resolution 2625 (2022). However, it continues by mentioning the lack of acknowledgement of the nexus and women's participation in other areas (Mandal, 2024, p 403-408) .



According to the article “*the interrelationship between food security, climate change, and gender-based violence: a scoping review with system dynamics modeling. PLOS Global Public Health*” (Agrawal, et al. 2023), the small but growing sector of research in the area connecting climate change, food insecurity and GBV is creating change and there is a need for additional research and attention to the area. It is concluded that for a decrease in food insecurity as well as GBV it is crucial to have focused interventions targeting the cause (ibid, p.16). Furthermore, according to Allen et al. (2023) the magnitude interventions set to action in Africa to decrease GBV does not have any relation to climate. Later on in the article, they call intersectionality to attention when discussing strategies to decrease the risk of GBV, as well as agricultural development programs (ibid, p. 2428, 2429).

Furthermore, it is clear that more in depth research is needed on the linkages. The focus of the thesis will be at the gap concerning how the research that is produced is being strategized as well as discussed locally and internationally. As mentioned above, the issue of increased GBV being a consequence of climate change is being discussed both in the international community and locally, but how the strategies differ and connect between the INGOs and the local NGOs in Kenya has not been researched, aiming to bridge the divide between global frameworks and local realities.

Theoretical framework

In their 1988 article *Ideology, Frame Resonance, and Mobilization*, Snow and Benford discuss the core framing tasks that underpin social movements. Framing helps conceptualize actions by creating perspectives that spark support and action. The framing process involves constructing a narrative around the values and meanings of a movement. Snow and Benford break down framing into three core tasks, which they argue are essential to the success of any movement. These tasks are defined as the diagnostic frame, the prognostic frame and motivational framing. The diagnostic framing



involves discovering the different factors that make up the problematic event, whereas the prognostic framing identifies strategies, tactics and targets, leading to suggesting solutions to the defined problem. It is the diagnosis of the problem that determines which solution gets prioritized. The last core framing task is motivational framing, which is created with selective incentives, involving issues such as moral questions and solidarity. These incentives are used to engage more participation in the social movement. (Snow, Benford, 1988, 197-203).

By using framing theory in the process of the interview guide as well as the thematic analysis that will be conducted to create the comparative analysis between international and local NGOs, it will create a framework to discover the different aspects of the processes in the way the actors create their strategies. The framing tasks are further connected to the Feminist Political Ecology (FPE) sections of the analysis.

As mentioned, to further analyze as well as answer the research questions, the FPE theoretical framework will be used as a lens to view the findings through an interdisciplinary perspective (Clement et al., 2019). Using the theory to structure the analysis to answer each research question, which connects to each section of the theory.

FPE has previously been used in studies concerning environmental crises in relations to humans, in relation to power, socio economics, gender, class culture and other intersectional aspects within social science (Clement et al., 2019) FPE focuses on gender power relations, access and control as well as interactions with ecological, technological, and political-economic processes. The theory emerged from a gendered critical analysis of environmental rights and science, consumption, distribution of resources as well as learning from the local perspective about the interactions with the environment (Harcourt, 2023, p1) Furthermore, focuses on the role of gender in shaping environmental policies, collective action, and social movements.



Additionally, It examines power dynamics related to access and control over resources, as well as how structural inequalities (e.g., class, culture, and gender) influence knowledge, political economy, and conflict (Elmhirst, 2011; Harcourt, 2023).

Furthermore, FPE examines structural forms of power that define inequality as well as control of resources. It further looks into how power shapes knowledge as well as influences institutions, which includes governmental control, political economy, material nature and conflict. Additionally, the theory of FPE looks further into the perspective of the local experiences in relation to the environment. (Clement et al., 2019). By using the lens of FPE, the analysis will look deeper into the two perspectives of environmental justice by the NGOs and INGOs, examine the power dynamics between the local and international level as well as their relation to the government, politics and donors, moving into the last perspective of development studies focusing on the differences and similarities of strategies between the INGOs and NGOs.

Conceptual framework

GBV

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is in this thesis as well as according to UNHCR, the act violence targeting a victim because of their gender. Though, anyone could be victim to it women and girls are specifically at risk, as one in three women have been victim to sexual, physical or psychological violence in their lifetime. GBV includes sexual, physical, mental and economic violence, including in public and privately as well as domestic or foreign relations between the perpetrator and victim. Trafficking and forced prostitution is also included as a form of GBV (UNHCR, 2023). Additionally, child marriages are internationally recognized as a form of GBV (Girls Not Brides, n.d.).



Climate hazards

Climate hazards are defined as agents of disasters that affect human settlements or the environment itself. The definition includes but does not stop at droughts, flooding, tropical cyclones, extreme temperatures and rain (Hobbs, 2021).

Methodological framework

This chapter will move further into the methodology used to conduct this study. It will firstly introduce the methodological framework which will be followed by a section explaining how the data has been collected and analysed to be presented in the findings chapter. Lastly, this chapter will include a discussion on the limitations and delimitations of the research.

This thesis employs a qualitative methodology to conduct the data and examine the strategies and approaches of GBV as a risk of climate change. The thesis was conducted through desk study as the primary data source, however, interviews were conducted through the internet, contributing in the sense of interviews to deepen the facts and analysis.

It will further study two different perspectives of strategies and discourses on GBV as a risk of climate change in a comparative design. It involves using the same method in both studies to create meaningful research which is able to be compared (Clark et al., 2021, 62.). It analyzes two perspectives, international NGOs and local Kenyan NGOs, using thematic analysis to identify and compare patterns within organizational strategies and operational factors. Throughout the thesis, Framing theory as well as Feminist Political Ecology (FPE) will be used abductively, as a lens. The theories will be included in the preparation of the interviews, within the interview guide as well as in the process of the thematic analysis. Furthermore, to create an understanding of the different perspectives the interview guide is inspired by the core framing tasks. In the last step of the



thematic analysis, the findings will be analyzed with the theoretical lens of FPE.

Data will be collected hybridly through three interviews, official reports, and website articles from Kenyan NGOs, a Kenyan civil society representative and INGOs. The interview pool includes one Kenyan civil society representative and two representatives from INGOs (Kvinna till Kvinna & IRC) working on GBV and climate change.

As this is a small case study, findings will be based on interview data from the INGOs and the civil society representative, along with publicly available materials, focusing on GBV and climate. The specific factors qualifying the NGOs for the study is that they should focus on GBV or climate change, working internationally or being based in Kenya working locally. The organizations are determined through representation on the internet working with GBV and climate change. The civil society interview is essential to provide a local perspective on how these issues are understood and addressed in Kenya, complementing the analysis of NGO strategies, in the absence of availability for interviews.

Thematic analysis

The data will be analyzed through the thematic analysis framework presented by Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke in their *“Using thematic analysis in psychology”* (2006). This method is being used to identify, analyze and find patterns within the collected data. The data will be analyzed in six steps, which include familiarize, generate initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes and lastly producing the report (Braun, Clarke, 2006; p. 5,6). This qualitative analytical method will be used in the thesis as an organization of patterns within the interviews as well as creating themes that will further the discussion on the discourses between the organizations concerning GBV as a risk of climate change.



Familiarization begins with transcription, rereading interviews, and examining website materials. Initial codes are then generated, followed by simultaneous theme identification and organization through iterative rereading of the data. Phase two and three was done simultaneously by rereading the data and organizing it, as in the example below.

| Data extract | Code |
|---|-------------|
| <i>Then also setting up a kind of early warning system. How are women also included, involving them in participation in setting up the early warning system? Because they are not looking at their own race. They feel that their voices are not needed.</i> | Empowerment |
| <i>Conducting gender audits to analyse power relations in households, holding dialogs, psychological support to survivors of insecurity, developing climate change champions, and mapping and prioritizing climate change advocacy issues in the first year of implementation</i> | Strategy |

Table 1

In the case of the interview transcript for Kvinna till Kvinna, the familiarization of the data included translation from Swedish to English, leading to the quotes being re-worded for clarity while preserving the original meaning, as in the example below.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Data extract in Swedish | Translated to English |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|



| | |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Det är väldigt lite av den klimatfinansiering som finns som når civilsamhället och den lilla portion, av det som når fram, så är det tror jag noll komma noll procent som når kvinnorörelsen. Så det är också en finansiering i fråga. Det är svårt att arbeta om man inte har resurser med.</i></p> | <p><i>“there is only a small portion of the already small climate-financing that reaches the civil society, of which almost nothing goes to the women’s movement (...) it’s hard to make it work if you don’t have the resources.”</i></p> |
|--|--|

Table 2.

Leading to phase four which is to review the themes in the sense of organizing them further into the finalized themes. The themes will in this phase tell each story of that part of the data. The fifth phase of the thematic analysis is to define the essence of each theme, analyzing and identifying the importance as well as the differences of each theme. Lastly, phase six is to produce the report through analysis of the data extracted from the themes. In this phase the findings in the themes are going to answer the research questions (Braun and Clarke, 2006; 16-23). By relating the thematic analysis to the topic of the thesis, there will be head themes which will include INGOs and Kenyan NGOs as well as climate change NGOs and gender based violence NGOs. Sub-themes will then be produced out of the data abductively through the lens of Framing theory, and in phase six it will be analyzed in the perspective of the head themes to answer the research questions. The example below demonstrates the process of the construction of the themes and subthemes.

| Theme | Subtheme | Code |
|-------|------------------|---------------------|
| INGO | Diagnostic frame | Linking |
| NGO | Prognostic frame | Operational factors |

Table 3.



Data collection method

The empirical data in this study consist of both secondary and primary sources. The secondary sources consist of online articles and reports, written and conducted by the organizations examined within this study. The articles were settled on due to the relevance of the topic as well as being written from 2015-2024 on account of being relevant to the present work of the organizations. Furthermore, the primary sources consist of semi structured interviews, conducted, executed and transcribed by the author.

The organizations selected in this study were determined by them working in the area of GBV and/or climate change. The fact that each of the organizations has made a difference in the area of GBV as well as having reachable information. Kvinna till Kvinna was selected due to it being a leading INGO concerning women's rights, working from the international perspective with partner organizations working from the local perspective (Kvinna till Kvinna, n.d.). The International Rescue Committee was selected due to its work with displaced people, focus on women's rights, and its many years in the business, delivering lasting impact in crisis affected communities. IRC has been working with humanitarian aid since the year of 1933 (IRC, 2024). Moving on to the Kenyan NGOs, which were chosen in the same aspects as the INGOs but having made a difference in smaller local aspects. The organization Samburu Women Trust was chosen due to the fact that they focus on empowering indigenous women from the Samburu people. Their mission includes addressing harmful cultural practices by integrating women as decision makers (Samburu Women Trust, 2022h). Moving on to the organization Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), which was selected into this study due to the fact that since they established their aim has been to respond to the silence addressing violence against women and girls in Kenya COVAW (2023b). Lastly, Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) was selected due to it being a national movement of grassroots, women-led and community based organizations. Additionally, GROOTS highlights the importance of



recognising that climate change exacerbates gender inequalities as well as inequality to mitigate climate change risks (Groots Kenya, 2023c).

The articles have been collected from the websites of the organizations. The websites as well as the articles, blogs and reports posted on them have been thoroughly examined and coded to later become the themes in the thematic analysis. The articles, blog posts and reports have been selected through the use of the words *Gender, Women, Girls, GBV, Climate Change and Environment*. The articles have targeted specific regions of Kenya as well as other regions in the world depending on the articles' been conducted by the NGOs or the INGOs.

The three interviews included in this study were conducted semi-structured and function as a deeper insight of the organizations as well as the local perspective. The interviewees from Kvinna till Kvinna and IRC were selected through emailing their offices and executed on Zoom. The interviewee representing IRC had the perspective of working in one of the streams as technical advisors supporting MENA countries, providing technical support for their GBV programming. The interviewee works within the Women Protection and Empowerment sector which involves GBV (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). The interviewee representing Kvinna till Kvinna, had the perspective of working as advocacy and policy advisor for the organization. Whereas the contact with the civil society, which brought the local kenyan perspective, working for Children's Mission Africa was contacted through several steps of connections. There was no relation between the author and the interviewees prior to the interview.

Introduction to the non-governmental organizations

Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK)

KtK as a foundation started as a result of the sexual violence used as a weapon during the Balkan wars 1993 (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communications, 2/12/2024). However, today the foundation is one of the



world's leading feminist women's rights organisations, working all over the globe to strengthen the influence and power of all women (Kvinna till Kvinna, n.d.). KtK is working within the international sphere of organizations, including policy forums within the United Nations in collaboration with other leading peace organizations such as the International Peace Institute (Schmidt, 2023). Additionally, KtK has local offices in each region they work within as well as having a close partnership with the local organizations in the areas. Furthermore, the foundation works with local organizations by supporting their projects as well as producing reports and context analysis to mobilize the importance of the issues needed in the area (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communications, 2/12/2024).

The International Rescue Committee (IRC)

The IRC works in the area of humanitarian crisis, by recovering and rebuilding lives disrupted by the crisis. IRC is built on several streams for different aspects of their focused work. Within this thesis it is mainly focused on their protection streams, specifically women's protection and empowerment sector which includes focus on GBV. The organization has teams based in each region they work in which provide an evaluation and a context analysis on the situation as well as the project put in place. The projects conducted by IRC are mainly donor requests but are created based on context analysis as well as having discussions with the local communities (IRC, personal relations, 28/11/2024)

Samburu Women Trust (SWT)

SWT is a indigenous women led network of advancing women and girls rights as well as empower and include indigenous women in decision making processes on all levels in Kenya. The organization is further the secretariat for Indigenous Women Council (IWC). The organization works in collaboration with individual pastoralist women, women human rights defenders and NGOs, and aims to create a collective voice of development and equality on the grassroots, national, regional and international level.



Their main mission is to advocate for indigenous women and girls (Samburu Women Trust, 2022j). SWT is further mentioned in the UNEP article on “*Empowering women means taking a stand for environmental rights*” as an important factor for the case (UNEP, 2019).

The Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)

COVAW is a national non-profit women's rights NGO in Kenya. The organization was established in the cause of the silence around sexual violence against women in Kenya in 1995. COVAW's mission is to create a reality for women free from violence as well as enjoy equal rights (Covaw, 2023b). COVAW creates projects to reach their goals by having partnerships with other NGOs as well as being funded by donors such as Human Dignity Foundation (Covaw, 2024a)

Grassroot Organizations Operations Together In Sisterhood

GROOTS Kenya was founded in 1995 as a national movement of grassroots, women-led, community-based organizations and self-help groups in Kenya to shine a light on grassroots women in development processes and decision making forums to create change and development in their communities. Its mission is to provide technical and non technical support to the grassroots movement. GROOTS Kenya has created a platform for grassroots women to be recognized as change agents in all levels of the society (Groots Kenya, 2023a). By working for grassroots women leaders with partners such as Equal Measures 2030, Seed Savers and HIVOs in projects to strengthen women's leadership as well as decreasing GBV. Furthermore, GROOTS Kenya has projects such as RWCC (Rural Women Cultivating Change) focusing on strengthening the prevention of GBV and creating a sustainable rural livelihood (Groots Kenya, 2023f).

Ethical considerations

Due to the fact that the thesis includes interviews within the data, ethical considerations are crucial when gathering the data (Mirza et al., 2023) All



interviewees will be treated with respect and being informed and asked for consent before the interview starts. The interviewees will be anonymous throughout the thesis, which has been consented. The interviewees will discuss their work rather than personal life which creates less pressure. However, due to the fact that the researcher are working from a different culture, ethnicity and academically background it is important that the interview guide as well as the researcher takes ethical considerations during the interviews. It has been done by having email and interview-guide checked by the supervisor. The data collected will not be used for any other research than this and will be kept secure.

Limitations and Delimitations

Limitations of this research include having a small sample size of the interview pool which reflects on the availability of NGOs and INGOs having representative interviewees to contribute to the thesis. Leading to having a hybrid approach using both the method of interviews and desk study. Conducting the interview through the internet may also affect the trust and openness to discuss. Furthermore, by not being able to conduct interviews with all actors involved in the thesis may create an unjust picture of the reality. Nevertheless, the researcher strives to be objective and give justice to all actors involved in the thesis. Lastly, while striving for objectiveness, biases may influence how the research is interpreted.

The delimitations of the research are analyzed and determined to create a valuable contribution to the field in the sense of constraining it to one country on the local level, Kenya, which as mentioned suffers from climate change weather hazards as well as a high rate of GBV. By delimiting the research, valuable information about how the INGOs and Kenyan NGOs are working with the issue, which will add to the broader discussion in the field of development. This selective sampling allows for a detailed comparative analysis of strategies and perspective at both a local and international level.



Leading to the study being a crucial contribution to the development field and discourse.

Findings

A thematic analysis, in two separate perspectives, has been conducted through the data presented in this chapter. The transcriptions from the interviews conducted as well as documents from websites have been thoroughly examined to create the two separate sets of codes. The thematic analysis, examined the INGO's and local NGO's work within the field of GBV as a risk of climate change, which created a set of eleven codes within the two perspectives, emerging into three themes predetermined through the Framing theory, Diagnostic frame, Prognostic frame and Motivational frame. The themes are named in connection to the framing tasks explaining the structure of the organizations. The two perspectives will be presented by first introducing the INGO's perspective and further moving on to the NGO's perspective.

Diagnostic frame

Starting off with the diagnostic theme including the codes pronounced as Linking, Insecurity and Collection of information. The diagnostic frame examines the identification of the problem by the organizations (Snow, Benford, 1988, 200). The upcoming section of the findings will discuss the approaches to reach the linkages between GBV and climate change. The INGOs focus on research and theory to connect the two phenomena to create evidence, whereas the NGOs acknowledge the change in women seeking rescue in community led safety shelters. The evidential link has further influenced the NGOs to discuss and address the situation with theoretical approaches which is represented throughout this section.



INGOs

In the international sector of NGOs, the linkages between increased GBV and climate change is discussed but there are not a lot of programs designed to target the specification of how to decrease the risks of increased GBV in the aftermath of climate crises. (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). In 2022, KtK produced a report acknowledging the different aspects of the nexus between climate change and gender. Within the report, a brief outline of the links between climate change and GBV. It is expressed that the intersection between the two issues are clear and furthermore should be addressed, however the clear evidence it is not mentioned in the three specific climate change treaties, 1992 UNFCCC, 1997 Kyoto Protocol and 2015 Paris Agreement (Kvinna till Kvinna, 2022a).

Furthermore, KtK contributed to the increased attention of the global discussion concerning GBV and climate change, by producing a report based in Rwanda 2021 which pinpointed how the climate crisis struck against women's situation. The result of the report linked, among other things, the climate crisis to increased GBV (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024). The report specializes on the intersection between gender, women's rights and the Environmental and Climate Change (ECC) in Rwanda with a focus on GBV, SRHR, women's economic empowerment, participation and conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The study included a desk review and field work in the sense of semi-structured interviews. Within the report, KtK is able to prove with 82% of the respondents that women and girls are more affected by climate change in Rwanda than men and boys. Being affected is mentioned as increased incidences of SGBV and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Furthermore, it was further examined that due to a decrease in food and income in a climate hazard, families are encouraged to put their daughters into early marriages. Furthermore, the linkage between climate change and GBV is further discussed in the sense that the unpaid care work burden is increasing when a



climate hazard occurs. The care work further includes longer distances for gender normative responsibilities, such as collecting firewood and water. Women within the study has reported being raped when executing such responsibilities for the household. All the 10 districts in the study had a strong linkage between the effects of climate change and SGBV (Kvinna till Kvinna, 2021, p 6-7).

KtK as well as their representative interviewee, further mentions the link within their project in Palestine concerning water shortage. The lack of water due to climate change as well as conflict, it focuses on research and policy documents to address the urgency and prove the linkages. It is further explained in the article *“They network to counteract water shortages in Palestine”*, as women being responsible for securing water as well as working within the agricultural sector but have no opportunity to participate in developing the sector. When there is a shortage of water, women get more vulnerable in several perspectives, such as lack of food, leading to grievances that can be a driver for GBV towards women (Kvinna till Kvinna, 2022b; Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).

Within IRC, the issue has come up more gradually with a similar aim as KtK in the sense of focusing on how the climate crisis is affecting women and girls but has not yet developed any programme other than a guidance approach which is still in the draft in the MENA sector. Due to the fact that climate changes such as drought has brought an increase of GBV in places where the organization has created programmes targeting survivors of GBV, they provide on the existing project which is not focusing on climate change (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).

The connection between climate hazards and gender insecurity can be looked at in several steps, the IRC representative interviewee explains it through flooding which can lead to cholera or droughts that can lead to respiratory difficulties. These insecurities can harm both children and adults in the sense



that schools close and children bring home diseases which can affect the rest of the family, causing further vulnerabilities. It also affects the availability of learning for children which is the cause of focusing on creating safe spaces for children for educational purposes. Which further leads to economic insecurity within families, resulting in stress and in most cases harder conditions to get resources which puts women in a vulnerable situation, especially when there are strong patriarchal values (ibid). In the article *“How climate change drives humanitarian crises”*, IRC mentions the increase of 60 to 70 % in GBV in the aftermath of the two hurricanes in Honduras (IRC, 2021). Additionally, in a press release on the situation in Bangladesh 2023, IRC revealed in a study examining how climate induced disasters affect women and girls, that child marriages and GBV increases in the aftermath (Dent, 2023). Though, as the IRC representative interviewee highlights (IRC, personal communication 28/11/2024), IRC is addressing causes for increased GBV that could be the aftermath of a climate change but not climate hazards itself. The five causes mentioned that are happening due to a crisis are poverty, breakdown of services, conflict and war, displacement and stress at home (IRC, 2023).

Due to the fact that the linkages between GBV and climate change is more pronounced now, it is discussed more frequently on the international level, though, both the INGOs implies that the research done on the issue is too thin, relating to the lack of programmes designed to target it. KtK further implies that women are being left out of the discussions concerning climate change on the national level which is where the most crucial decisions are determined (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).

To examine and prove the link between GBV and climate change, the INGOs gather their information about the situations as well as the programs they support. The information is researched through their partner organizations and the INGOs local office teams, situated in the country of the projects. Both organizations have a large network within the countries, they have



programmes to understand the situation as well as connecting different issues, such as climate change and GVB (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). IRC has women and girls safe-spaces focusing on GBV, through them it is clear to perceive when the cases increase. However, the safe spaces are more focused on handling the situation of the increased victims rather than looking for a cause. The evaluation on these programmes depends on how stable the location is. When focusing on development in a more stable location the evaluations come on a quarterly basis and if the situation is more acute the assessments might need to be changed on a weekly basis. The evaluation gives them an idea of the risk the women and girls are facing in the location which includes inter alia climate change, access to services and risk of violence. It creates an opportunity to analyze the programme to be able to shape and design the program according to the level of insecurity (IRC personal communication, 28/11/2024).

KtK works with a strong network of organizations both within the countries they are actively working in as well as in other countries where they don't have any partner organizations. To further the security situation for women they connect with the feminist movement in the country. KtK is also using consults and researchers as well as researching themselves to gather information both quantitatively and qualitatively (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).

NGOs

On the national level the connection between climate change and GBV is brought up due to it being on the agenda in the international sphere. Furthermore, when it is discussed, the focus often lies on climate change. However, the civil society representative described the correlation between GBV and climate change from the Masaai perspective where women are in control of milk, when long droughts occur, cattle are lost leading to less milk



to sell. Which further results in less money which drives the increase of GBV (Civil society, personal communication, 12/12/2024).

The three organizations examined, discussed the linkage between increased GBV and climate change in different ways. SWT and GROOTS discuss the linkages in the sense of viewing climate change as a factor that causes insecurity leading to increased GBV towards the local women. (Groots Kenya, 2023c; Samburu Women Trust, 2022g)

Furthermore, SWT mentioned that the linkages was brought up due to it being discussed on the international level, within the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, however, they highlight the perspective of the local women and the sense that they experience it rather than discussing it. SWT addresses the importance of the international community taking action when it comes to GBV and climate change in their article “*Globally, Climate Change Is Putting More Women At Risk Of Gbv*”, by expressing the complexity the international community discusses the issue. Because of the inconsistent access to health care and police protection, the actual number of women suffering abuse in the aftermath of climate change is not detected through statistics, but by the increased number of women who join women-only communities (Samburu Women Trust, 2022c). Umoja is an example of where GBV victims seek rescue (Bindel, 2015). Within the Umoja village, there is no doubt that climate hazards fuel GBV, even though the international community needs scientific facts (Samburu Women Trust, 2022c). Though COVAW is discussing other factors similar to the two other organizations, they don't mention climate change as an underlying cause. However, COVAW as the other organizations sees the need to work with decreasing poverty and patriarchal norms in the sense that it is causing the increase of GBV (Odula-Obonyo, Munyinyi-Wahome, 2018, p,19).

When discussing GBV, SWT discusses root causes such as patriarchal systems, harmful cultural practices as well as societal norms and not having



adequate gender policies (Samburu Women Trust, 2022k). They further discuss it in a socio-economic sense where women are lacking the economical and financial opportunities to create independence and security for themselves as well as their families. Though they acknowledge these factors as root causes, they further recognize climate change and climate emergencies as an underlying cause for insecurity and GBV. SWT implies that climate change creates fear and insecurity which increases the vulnerability for indigenous women to be victims of climate change. It is described as prolonged droughts causing loss in livestock, which causes insecurity for pastoralists such as the Maasai tribe, which particularly puts the women in a vulnerable situation due to the fact that they have historically faced marginalization (Samburu Women Trust, 2022i).

GROOTS is working towards changing the narrative in the sense of climate change and women, by describing women not just as victims but as change agents (Groots Kenya, 2023c). However, GROOTS as well as SWT, describes climate change as a driver for increased GBV as well as unpaid work, forced migration, armed conflicts and other harmful practices leading to women being vulnerable situations. GROOTS further brings up the importance of acknowledging refugee women, who are displaced because of a crisis such as a climate hazard. Whilst being displaced there is usually a limited access to basic social services as well as being a victim for GBV. They further concede four classes of emergencies increasing the risk of GBV, including climate related emergencies as well as conflict-related emergencies, disease, and pandemic-related emergencies, and man-made emergencies (Gathumbi, Njunge, Githuku, 2023).

Prognostic frame

Secondly, the prognostic frame theme, emerging from the codes Strategy, Prioritizing, Operational factors, Local perspective, Empowerment and Planning. The prognostic frame examines the INGOs and Kenyan NGOs suggested solutions to the problem previously identified in the diagnostic



frame theme (Snow, Benford, 1988, 201). This theme focuses on how the organizations strategies their work concerning GBV and climate change as well as the rationale of their perspectives. Starting out with the INGOs perspectives. As will be discussed in the forthcoming section of the findings, though the organizations are at the forefront within the field of gender and development, any projects specifically targeting GBV as a risk of climate change are not currently being implemented. However, both the INGOs and NGOs are focusing their projects on gender and climate in the sense of climate adaptation and empowerment. The INGOs work as a middle hand between the local civil society and the international community, promoting projects involving empowerment of women and disarming the harmful patriarchal system, including both men and women in the process. Whereas the local NGOs in Kenya focus their strategies on climate resilience as well as women's empowerment from the grassroot level.

INGOs

Working with GBV as a risk of climate change on an international level focuses on preventing the increase, in the sense of creating an early warning system as well as creating agency within women, making their voices heard as well as needed. While discussing designing response programmes to increasing GBV in the event of an emergency, the link between lack of agency and resources connecting to the increase are in the background of it. The focus of programmes that targets GBV increase is therefore in the empowerment of women as well as support (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). These strategies evolve over time, adapting to changing circumstances and donor priorities. Program locations are determined by donor focus areas and INGO-led context analyses. INGOs either propose projects to donors or receive project directives from donors, balancing predefined objectives with community needs (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).



When donors collaborate with IRC, context analyses guide project assessments based on local stability. In crisis settings, emergency donors like BHA (Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance) fund humanitarian aid, with weekly context analyses shaping project development. As stability improves, projects shift toward long-term development, attracting sustainable development donors like GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). In stable areas, quarterly assessments refine project goals to address community insecurity. While similar approaches are used across regions, projects are not replicated but adapted based on lessons learned (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).

Though IRC is not working directly with climate change as a cause or driver for increased GBV, they are working with decreasing GBV in collaboration with the local civil society, supporting women and girls to make their voices feel needed as well as creating a foundation of agency for them. Though, due to being an international actor, obstacles occur when trying to implement and advocate projects for women empowerment, resulting from colonialism creating hesitation concerning westernized ideas. Stemming from that, their strategic methods to create a sustainable development and more secure situation for women, is to collaborate with the local NGOs to create trust between the community and the international sector. Furthermore, the strategic method proceeds in the sense that the organization familiarizes themselves and assesses the developments needed by the community when creating a project to create sustainability. The interviewee explained it as *“they (the locals) know, they are there and the solution is there”*, from the top down it is possible to simplify the project to your own perspective, but from the bottom they see what they need. Additionally, as mentioned, working with a western feminist perspective, the need for women participating as well as being listened to is another obstacle in this sense due to the root causes of the patriarchal system and social norms. The strategies concerning this involves, creating a chance for women to voice their concerns and to create an understanding that their voices are needed as well



as working with the men in a similar sense to make them listen to the women's opinions. The IRC representative further emphasizes that in most cases they have been working with, "*women are in the committees but it is still men creating the reports and solutions*". Furthermore, IRC implies that it is important to create a safe space for women to understand that there is violence in conservative regions because GBV is in some cases not seen as violence. In that sense the pre-work is crucial before implementing a GBV project (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).

Both of the INGOs are working with women-led organizations in the areas to promote empowerment and create the change from the grassroots level due to it being a great strategy to create sustainable change from within the community. Though, when working with the grassroots it is important to create a collaborative field between the climate NGOs and gender NGOs due to the fact that the issue of GBV as a risk of climate change is an issue that needs to be addressed through two sides. The climate perspective creates resilience and sustainable livelihood whereas the gender perspective focuses on creating agency for women. By working from both sides the result would lead to sustainable livelihoods as well as gender equality and security (Kvinna till Kvinna personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).

KtK is more advanced in the issue relating increasing GBV to climate change and is working with their partner organizations to link the two together. Within Palestine they have been working with the feminist movement to illuminate the importance of gender aspects within water supplies, both in empowering women to work but also in where the water is supplied. They further supported their partner organization in DRC who evaluated the government's analysis of how to recover in the aftermath of the floods which did not include any gender aspects (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).



In the case of IRC the prioritization of projects is determined by donor requests. If the request is based on sexual reproductive health, the project implemented must support survivors of sexual assault. The IRC country team collaborates with local civil society to align donor priorities with local needs, acting as both a facilitator and supporter. They act in this case as a middle hand as well as a supporter to the project implemented. Diversion from the middle hand is not possible, funding is strictly allocated to its designated cause, even if the context analysis shows the importance of focusing in another sector. However, they also work with national partners and NGOs for sustainability of the programs as well as terms of policy reforms. By engaging with communities and governments, IRC are able to design projects before seeking donor funding (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).

KtK has a similar prioritization as IRC, however, they also present issues that no partner organizations are focusing on. Initiatives on GBV and climate change were initially directed by KtK but during the last few years have been coming from the partner organisations as well. Their aim is to have the local partner organizations as the drivers of the projects. The initiative of working with GBV and climate change has been met with positivity from the donors, though, the countries where the partner organizations implement the project are in some cases very conservative which hinders the projects to reach its full potential (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).

To ensure the local perspective is actively used in strategies, IRC has an internal Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) country team to provide the evaluations of the situations as well as the implemented projects (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). Whereas KtK gets their data for the reports they are writing solely from their partner organizations and feminist movements due to the fact of their large network of organizations in the countries they work in (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).



INGOs prioritize reducing GBV by increasing women's participation across society, ensuring their voices are heard and valued. This is achieved through decision-making inclusion and male education, fostering women's agency and economic security (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). IRC emphasizes not only providing resources like crop materials but also engaging women in business development. Recognizing social norms, they highlight the importance of male involvement to prevent intimidation and resistance to change. IRC further discussed their intervention on the household level called the Gender Discussion Series, where they give economic aid to the women in the household to support families, providing economic aid while facilitating joint financial decision-making, fostering men as allies rather than oppressors. IRC indicates that these kinds of discussions mitigate any form of gender inequality, the women feel empowered and make their voices heard. It's important to start from the grassroots to let the movement change the society rather than starting by trying to change the government (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). KtK employs a similar approach, including discussion series in Syria that link women's empowerment to climate activism and conflict recovery (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024).

Due to the fact that the link between increased GBV and climate change was just examined a few years ago, most strategies are in the works and are not focused on at the moment. Some projects are, however, touching on the subject by working on empowering women economically as well as within the agricultural sector. Furthermore, there are projects focusing on GBV and its survivors but not in the specification with climate crises (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).



NGOs

Within the local NGO sector the three organizations examined in the paper focus on community led projects from the bottom up perspective. Though their projects do not solely focus on climate change and GBV the two are commonly mentioned in the majority of their strategies. The common thread is using empowerment as a resilience strategy whilst connecting it to community land management as well as economic empowerment and women's human rights (Samburu Women Trust, 2022e;Covaw, 2023a; Groots Kenya 2023f).

The civil society representative brings up strategies in a similar way as the NGOs, by increasing money and inclusion for women the vulnerability will decrease. She further explained resilience strategies within the Maasai, a pastoralist culture, which needs to mobilise faster and further due to the long draughts. By training them on grass growing and other techniques, resilience is created in several perspectives due to the movement of the people. The civil society representative further implies that the change comes from the feminist organizations on the ground but the evidence comes from the top, making it crucial to work in symbiosis to create sustainable change. The grassroot organizations are specified in the change in the small spaces they are trying to do, whereas the national and international organizations are more broad and have the responsibility to advocate for the changes in larger arenas (Civil society , personal communication, 12/12/2024).

SWT operates their strategies through three levels, regional, national and local. Within the regional level the focus is on creating indigenous peoples conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity for adaptation and resilience to climate change. Whereas within the national level, the SWT supports women and girl-led organizations in arid and semi-arid counties in Kenya, to advance the collective voices of the women and girls, addressing GBV among indigenous communities. Lastly, on the local level, they support



organizations through micro-grant community led responses to combat humanitarian crises, cash transfers, wash and nutrition and other life-saving interventions (Samburu Women Trust, 2022d). With partners such as the Oxfam, SWT have promoted both preventive and responsive mechanisms to SGBV as well as strengthen techniques aimed at the reduction of SGBV. Furthermore they implemented assistance and counselling from care providers to the victims of violence (Samburu Women Trust, 2022g).

On the resilience side of the strategies, SWT works with eradicating poverty, fostering climate adaptation and developing mitigation practices for indigenous women. This creates a platform for the women to share their stories as well as knowledge concerning challenges. It further focuses on the gaps in efforts to combat poverty and addressing climate change (Samburu Women Trust, 2022f). Furthermore, COVAW is working from a culturally sensitive perspective with SGBV, focusing on resilience and rehabilitation (Covaw, 2024a). The strategies towards a more equal reality for the women by advocating a greater prioritizing on sexual and reproductive health and rights both in the county and national government. As well as the other organizations, COVAW recognizes that focusing on economic empowerment of women and girls will enable them increased independence and security (Covaw, n.d.a). In one of their ongoing projects in partnership with Urgent Action Fund-Africa, they call attention to the importance of challenging the harmful gender norms that is one of the root causes of the violence towards women (Covaw, 2024d). In another project, Inclusive and Empowered Feminist Movements in Africa, COVAW is highlighting that the underrepresented groups of women refugees with disabilities often face some kind of GBV during journeys of escape from crises. In COVAW's United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the organization is working in collaboration with Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) to support women and girls with disabilities in Kenya, Rwanda and Malawi on GBV. By creating a sub regional network creates further bridges between feminist



organization and gender equality movements which further creates a greater advocacy for all women in the region (Covaw, 2024b).

GROOTS Kenya is using the grassroots perspective to strategies their work towards sustainable development. The organization is working towards five goals to create a sustainable development for women and girls as well as the climate, the goals include goal 1 *“A strong and diverse grassroots movement for women and girls scaled and sustained”*, goal 2 *“Women/girls leadership and transformative governance is promoted”*, goal 3 *“Economic empowerment and justice for grassroots women and girls is achieved”*, goal 4 *“Climate resilience for grassroots women and girls achieved”*, and lastly goal 5 *“All gender injustices against women are eliminated”* (Groots Kenya, 2023g). In collaboration with Diakonia, Christian Impact Mission, and the Anglican Development Services, GROOTS Kenya's *“Gender and Climate Change”* project advances Goals 1 and 4. It promotes climate-smart agriculture to reduce food insecurity, focusing on women smallholder farmers. Additionally, the project conducts gender audits to analyze household power dynamics through dialogue, enabling the detection and support of survivors facing various insecurities (Groots Kenya, 2023d). Through these projects, participants build networks with suppliers, receive training, and adopt improved farming practices (Groots Kenya, 2024). In addition to project implementation, the organization collaborates with partners like the Women's Refugee Commission to produce reports on GBV. These reports highlight the rise of GBV during climate-related emergencies and identify underlying causes (Gathumbi, et al., 2023).

Motivation framing

The third theme, Motivational frame arose from the codes Motivational, Operational factors and Problems/Obstacles. The motivational frame concerns how the organizations mobilize the information to create awareness and participation in the issue (Snow, Benford, 1988, 202). This theme focuses on how the organizations advocate for participation in the issue of



GBV as a risk of climate change. In the upcoming section, the findings focusing on the INGOs moves deeper into how awareness is spread through reports and context analysis to attract donors as well as starting discussions within the international community. Moving deeper into the section, the focus changes to the NGOs, who advocate for grassroots women led communities on the national and international level to promote more fundings. Furthermore, to spread awareness within communities, the NGOs hold campaigns highlighting sexual reproductive health as well as rights.

INGOs

Both the INGOs work mainly with advocacy work rather than implementing projects themselves. The INGOs depend on donors in their advocacy as well as when supporting projects in the local communities. When a context analysis is conducted, the organisations reach out to the appropriate donor, with emergency or development focus (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). However, to bring the focus to KtK, they conduct reports, policy documents as well as spreading awareness. As mentioned KtK discovered the connection between GBV and climate change through a case study in Rwanda 2021 where they examined how Climate change influenced society as well as livelihoods focusing on the gender aspect. The report created awareness about the underlying consequences the changes in the environment affected women's insecurity. Prior to around 2021, the link between the two issues were not discussed, neither in the local sphere or the international. By acknowledging the link between climate change and women, they inspired local organizations in Rwanda to engage women in climate issues. In Afghanistan, where women have a limited amount of rights, KtK with their partner organizations created a project to get women to work in connection to climate change, which created agency for women as well as a sustainable development in the climate area (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024). Furthermore, within their articles there is a recommendation section, in the report *“They came together not to be*



silenced, gender based violence in conflict & the role of women's organisations" each chapter has a recommendation section targeting The international community, donors and governments. In the first chapter, *"The role of women's rights organisations"*, they recommended the actors mentioned above to *"must insist on the use of a victim/survivor-centred approach in all interventions related to CRSV (conflict related sexual violence) and other forms of GBV, and must, where possible, encourage multi-sector cooperation involving local women's rights organisations, international organisations and government institutions"* (Förberg, Poh-Janrell, 2023,p.83). Previously in the chapter the reason for this recommendation has been made clear through evidence of the lack of opportunity for local women's rights organizations to participate as well as the lack of victim/survivor centers (ibid)

According to KtK, the anti-gender narrative is affecting the works of organizations working with gender equality badly in the sense that the narrative wants to step away from the gender perspective. When KtK was created, gender was not a component within the climate question, however, now it has a great role. It is now discussed as an included sector in large international climate conferences such as UNFCCC's COP29, though it is still faced with rejection from certain countries (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). However, according to KtK (personal communication, 2/12/2024) *"there is only a small portion of the already small climate-financing that reaches the civil society, of which almost nothing goes to the women's movement (...) it's hard to make it work if you don't have the resources."*(Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024). Through researching and highlighting the effects on women's livelihood in climate change, more local organizations and intergovernmental organizations will discuss it and more action will be taken. This is proven by GBV not being discussed within the international or local sphere five years ago but is today linked together,



demonstrated through research reports (Kvinna till Kvinna, personal communication, 2/12/2024; IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024).

Changing the narrative is a further part within empowering and motivating women, girls and donors towards gender equality. IRC previously had a department called GBV but due to the fact that it evolved from just working with GBV survivors to work from the roots, with women protection and empowerment the name changed to Women's protection and Empowerment department (IRC, personal communication, 28/11/2024). IRC further brings up their aim to change the realities in refugee camps in their article "*Breaking down barriers for women and girls*". In the article, the story of a fourteen year old girl displaced in a refugee camp in Chad is told. The reality of not being able to bathe due to lack of security in the wash houses, being married of to a older man in the camp as well as not being able to follow her dreams due to the gender norms of sending boys to school whilst girls stay home to take care of the household, is mentioned in the sense of IRC is strategizing to break down these barriers to create equal opportunities for women and girls, from having the basic security of having a good hygiene to having an education (IRC, 2017).

NGOs

Kenyan NGOs, like the INGOs, engage in advocacy by promoting grassroots women-led organisations. To bolster the country's grassroots efforts, SWT and Groots act as organizational leaders in driving local change (Samburu Women Trust, 2022a; Groots Kenya, 2023a). SWT focuses on Indigenous women's rights in Samburu County, hosting the NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund to improve funding access. Within the project, STW collaborated with chiefs, hospitals administrators and Community Health Volunteers through teamwork to prevent and respond to SGBV within the indigenous communities (Samburu Women Trust, 2022d). SWT further collaborates with other NGOs to create events and forums, empowering women by providing



spaces to share experiences and raise awareness of vulnerabilities (Samburu Women Trust, 2022b).

Moving on to COVAWs mobilization of GBV, which focuses on building and sharing evidence on violations towards women in Kenya. Through knowledge-sharing and community documentation, they aim to reduce women's vulnerabilities. The organization also conducts campaigns on sexual and reproductive health and rights, improving access to essential services (Covaw, 2023a). As well as SWT, COVAW conducts events to increase awareness as well as celebrate the successful women leaders (COVAW, n.d.b, p35). Furthermore, the organizations collaborate with NGOs and key stakeholders to facilitate justice for GBV survivors and strengthen relationships with benefactors (Covaw, 2024c). Though they mobilize their efforts to prevent SGBV, their strategies do not incorporate the linkages with climate change.

Lastly, as mentioned throughout this chapter, GROOTS focus a considerable amount of their strategies on gender and climate. The organization collaborates with development donors and services to implement the gender aspect in climate change programs (Groots Kenya, 2023e). Furthermore, GROOTS work in collaboration with NGOs conducting programs focusing on gender and climate to empower rural women both socially and economically (Groots Kenya, 2023d). Furthermore, GROOTS spread knowledge as well as success stories through blogs and reports to create awareness of the grassroots movements as well as challenges (Groots Kenya, 2023b).

Analysis

The findings are analyzed through framing theory to highlight the differences and similarities between INGOs and NGOs. The analysis chapter uses FPE to explore feminist perspectives on environmental justice, political ecology, and development. Feminist perspectives will focus on gender and climate change,



political ecology will address power dynamics, and the development section will compare strategies between international and local organizations. Each analysis section will align with the themes from the findings and explain how these themes relate to the three FPE perspectives.

Feminist perspectives on environmental justice

Starting off with the feminist perspectives on environmental justice section by discussing the connection between GBV and climate change in the international as well as the local perspective in accordance with the Diagnostic frame theme. This section will discuss the linkages as well as perspectives on GBV as a risk of climate change. The connection between the two is proved through the international perspective through theory and research and has influenced the local sphere in the since that it has been brought up in the international arena, such as within UN panels and meetings. However, from the local perspective it is as well proven from the fact that more indigenous women are targeted in the aftermath of climate hazards. This is also proven by theories and numbers from the INGOs but in bigger aspects. Within the reports conducted by the INGOs the evidence of the increase of GBV is discussed systematically through different steps such as food insecurity caused by climate change leading to less children in school and more girls being married to decrease the burden on the family. Whereas on the local level the actual effects are evidence enough to prove the link. The fact that the links connecting increased GBV to climate change is just in the early stages of being on the agenda might be the reason for international projects mainly targeting the causes of GBV such as poverty, war and displacement but not working in connection to the climate change sector. Additionally, in the local sector, the evidence of more victims of GBV is detectable through the increased burden in the safe havens, leading to the strategy as well being targeting women's empowerment to decrease the risk.

Furthermore, the different steps leading to GBV in relation to climate change are discussed in different ways depending on the organization being



international and local. However, it leads to the same result. The NGOs are giving a more specific description of the linkages within local communities and cultures such as the lived experience of Masai women being victims to harmful cultural practices due to patriarchy which further spills over in the events of droughts as an example. Because of being historically marginalized, women are not accounted for when such an event occurs leaving them more vulnerable. Furthermore, due to lack of economic and financial opportunities within the culture when a climate hazard occurs, the chance of creating independence decreases furthering the vicious circle of patriarchy. Whereas the INGOs give a broad picture of the events due to theoretical frameworks of context analysis which has been conducted in several places and areas of the world, concluding that due to the gender norms detected, women face more vulnerability when a climate hazard occurs.

Moving deeper into the environmental injustices highlighted by the INGOs and NGOs. As mentioned within the Diagnostic frame theme, the INGOs discover the injustices through research and context analysis conducted by a local team or researchers, such as proving the connection between GBV and climate change by analyzing the effects of the hurricanes in Honduras, declaring that there is a 60 to 70% of an increase of GBV in the affected areas. Whereas, the NGOs discuss the issue through examples and the increase of women joining villages such as Umoja, which provides them with safety and opportunities to rehabilitate.

Feminist perspective on political ecology

INGOs/NGOs

Moving on to the political ecology section of the analysis, focusing on power dynamics between the INGOs and NGOs as well as the relationships to the government and donors. The central point discovered in the findings is to create agency, empowerment and independence for women through the



projects, reports and blog posts from both the perspectives. Which further connects this section of the analysis to the Prognostic frame theme as well as the Motivational frame theme.

Moving into the analysis, due to the patriarchal system that is ruling in the countries where the INGOs work as well as within the areas and cultures the NGOs work with, the organizations work towards creating a sustainable equal power dynamics within the communities. Additionally, the INGOs examine has a great partnership network of local organizations to eliminate the top down approach towards development. As stated in the Prognostic frame theme, the IRC representative interviewee expressed *“they (the locals) know, they are there and the solution is there”*, however, due to the historically marginalization by the west of Africa as well as other underdeveloped parts of the world the relationship between the people and the western organizations is weak. Due to this, the relationships and partnerships with local organizations are crucial to create trust as well as the foundation to create sustainable development within the gender equality sector. As the movement of gender equality goes against the the patriarchal norms and values rooted in cultures such as the Masai, additionally, can be seen as a motion to imply westernized ideas in a neo-colonialist perspective, it faces hardship coming from the international community which proves the cruciality of needing a sustainable power dynamic towards the local NGOs as well as the government as a INGO. Furthermore, due to this obstacle they strategize their methods to work from the bottom up by creating programmes with local NGOs to create a trust as well as intervening sustainably for a more secure situation for women within the community. Additionally, when creating a project to be implemented in a certain area, it is essential that the INGOs familiarize themselves with the community to assess the developments needed by the local population to further the sustainability in their bottom up strategy. From a top-down perspective, there is a risk of simplifying the project to align with one's own viewpoint, whereas those at the grassroots level have a clearer understanding of their actual needs.



Furthermore, due to the patriarchal norms and the anti-western narrative that may exist in the communities, bringing the analysis to the importance of including men in projects concerning GBV as well as gender equality. In accordance with the Prognostic frame theme, discussed by the IRC representative interviewee expressed as “*women are in the committees but it is still men creating the reports and solutions*”, describes the unbalanced power dynamics which still exists even if the records indicate gender equality. To be able to create the trust concerning implementing gender equality into patriarchal systems it is crucial for the INGOs to familiarize themselves as well as working with the local civil society. In the absence of this strategy, the response may be out of hatred and creating a backlash within gender equality due to it being seen as a neo colonialist western idea.

As important it is for INGOs to have a positive relationship with the local NGOs in the area of their work, it is crucial for the local Kenyan NGOs to have relations with bigger organizations such as the INGOs as well as benefactors and key stakeholders to be able to facilitate their projects and campaigns. As communicated in the Prognostic frame theme, the civil society representative explain the the relation and important connection between the INGOs and NGOs as, the change comes from the feminist organization on the ground such as SWT, GROOTS and COVAW but the evidence comes from the top, including organizations such as KtK and IRC, concluding the importance to work in symbiosis with a balanced power dynamic. As SWT and GROOTs work with the local woman-led grassroots organization, to create change from the bottom, they are a crucial stakeholder for both the grassroots as well as the INGOs due to their connections to the culture and the international sector.

International community / INGOs and NGOs

The international community, which includes the INGOs further includes donors and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) such as the United



Nations. Within this perspective, the INGOs are analysed firstly as part of the international community but further into the section it will be separated. This section is in accordance with the Prognostic frame theme as well as the Motivational frame theme, in the sense that it analyzes the mobilization of the subject of GBV and climate change from the organization's perspective including how it is strategized as well as operational challenges. It will further slightly relate to the Diagnostic frame theme when discussing how the link is addressed. Starting off with the power dynamics between the donors and INGOs/NGOs, then going further into separating the INGOs from the international community whilst analysing the relationships between the organizations and higher international organs such as the UN and lastly examining the power dynamics between the government position and the organizations.

The relationship organizations have with donors is crucial due to being able to finance their projects and research. Leading to power dynamics being uneven if viewing it from the perspective of, designing projects which are in the organization's perspective of high prioritization but could be declined by the donors. Though, there is a dependency factor on the donors the organizations did not imply that there is a problem within the power dynamic due to trust in the sense that the organizations get funding and provide the donors with context analysis and evaluations. Though, as stated within the Motivational frame theme, expressed by the KtK representative, there is not a big portion of climate financing that reaches the civil society, and within that funding almost nothing goes in to the women's movement, leading to the gap in the research as well as projects concerning the increased GBV in the aftermath climate change.

Moving on to the power dynamics existing between the UN and the INGOs as well as the NGOs. Starting of accordant with the Diagnostic frame where SWT expressed within the article "*Globally, Climate Change Is Putting More Women At Risk Of Gbv*", the power dynamics between the international



community and local as unbalanced, in the sense that the effects of climate change is experienced by women within the Samburu community but the connection is discussed rather than addressed on the international level. This can further be connected with the fact that the INGOs examined in this study are discussing it but do not have any specific project targeting it. However, as mentioned above, expressed by the civil society representative as well as the representative interviewee from KtK, the motion of proving the connection to interest donors comes from above. However, coming back to the development funding, the financing towards civil society is low, especially concerning women and women in climate change. If there would be more action as well as discussion about the issue on UN level, the funding towards creating a sustainable livelihood for women, even in the event of a climate crisis. Which can be hypothesized due to the development in the past year concerning GBV and climate change linkages. Though gender was a topic on COP29, it was faced with dismissal, showing the need to normalize the inclusion of gender and intersectionality in the international sphere.

Government/ INGOs and NGOs

Moving on to the relationships between specifically the INGOs and the local government. Due to, as mentioned in the Motivational frame theme, working with gender questions can be met with dismissal by governments, it's important to start the movement from the grassroots, working with the local NGOs as well as the grassroot feminist movement. By highlighting the inequality in governmental policies, such as KtK did with the report based in Rwanda, the local civil society as well as the international community can acknowledge and start movements from different perspectives. However, it could also as stated within the Prognostic frame theme by the IRC, the cruciality to work with the government in the same sense as with men in patriarchal structures, trying to make the government allies rather than bullies. Advocating for women's rights as well as creating a sustainable safe livelihood for women, is done by the INGOs through both reports, whereas they have recommendations within their reports but also by empowering the



local civil society. By analysing the findings, it is possible to perceive an unbalanced power dynamic between the local civil society and the government as well as between the women of Kenya and their government, however, through the strategies the NGOs strive to advocate for equality. The unbalanced power dynamic is also detected within cultures and tribes between women, men and tribe leaders.

Concluding this section of the analysis by expressing the importance of a balanced power dynamic between the INGOs and the NGOs they are working with to create sustainable development for women. Furthermore, it is crucial to continue putting attention to the subject of gender and climate, specifically GBV and climate due to the fact that it will bring more funding if it's put into the spotlight. Additionally, though the power dynamic is unbalanced in several factors of the system it is important to work systematically from the grassroots as well as creating space in the international community for the issue of gender in the climate sector.

Feminist perspective on development

Continuing into the last part of the analysis chapter, focusing on strategies, as is mentioned within the Prognostic frame theme, the strategies that are put to action focus on gender and climate rather than solely GBV as a risk of climate change. This part of the analysis is going to look deeper into the similarities and differences within strategies from the perspectives of being INGO and NGO. Moving deeper into the challenges that construct the parts of the strategies that are similar and different. However, through the research in the findings, within the INGOs as well as the NGOs, there are not any projects specifically focusing on GBV in the aftermath of climate change. The organizations were chosen, as mentioned in the methodological framework chapter, due to their work within women's rights and development, as well as being in the forefront in their areas. Leading to the conclusion that it is an issue that is not yet addressed with action. The gender question has been brought up more in the last years in connection to climate



change which has brought developing change, though, there remains a significant need to prioritize and implement targeted measures addressing the specific security concerns of women in the context of gender-based violence and climate change. The issue is still in its early stages of development, but it is crucial to maintain momentum and continue efforts. The NGOs were chosen in a similar sense, meaning that the NGOs were either focused on GBV specifically on a national level, grassroots organizations working with gender equality and climate as well as indigenous women. Leading to an intersectional perspective from the national level to reach the findings.

Nevertheless, the ongoing efforts remain significant and essential, these will be analyzed further in this section of the analysis. Looking deeper into the works of the INGOs, it is possible to recognize the perspective of post liberal peace in the sense that their insights and efforts are put to action both from above as well as working with the local civil society. The top-down strategies are demonstrated through evidence, including the theoretical connection between GBV and climate change as presented in reports, as well as the prioritization of projects based on their sources of funding. However, using the bottom up approach by familiarizing themselves in the local communities before implementing projects to find the needs of the communities as well as being able to create a sustainable change for the women as well as working closely to the local civil society. The essence of the strategies from the INGOs involve prevention, empowerment as well including women in decision making processes. As the IRC representative stated, in some of the areas where they operate, women are included in decision-making committees but do not have the opportunity to contribute or address any issues. If viewing the committees from above, it is possible to acknowledge the process as gender inclusive but looking deeper into the actual action of the committees, serving as a façade to create the illusion of an inclusive process. However, through the data conducted in this study, the INGOs work as a middle hand between the international community, including the donors and the local civil society. Furthermore, the INGOs have evaluations teams



to examine the situation as well as the projects to precise the aim towards what is needed. Within the prognostic frame theme, the IRC representative explained it as not just giving crops to reduce poverty but also providing the training to sustain the reduction. The KtK representative explained this action by inviting the feminist movement to be part of creating the distribution water system, due to it being within the norms that women bring home the water, then women should be in power of how it should be distributed in a sustainable way.

As well as the INGOs aim, the NGOs work from the bottom up perspective but through different methods targeting similar goals, focusing on decreasing GBV. Furthermore, in a similar sense as the INGOs, the NGOs work from the resilience perspective but with an indigenous perspective, making the strategies leaning towards the cultural aspects of gender inequality. The strategies involve creating safe communities for women to share and relate to other women who have gone through similar traumas due to the patriarchal gender norms and harmful cultural practices. The NGOs initiatives consist mainly of development processes by having projects advocating for sexual and reproductive health, calling attention to harmful gender norms as well as supporting women and girls to use their collective voice.

As is mentioned in the prognostic frame theme, the GROOTS organization is advocating for issues such as those mentioned above by including empowerment as well as climate resilience within their five main goals. To create agency for women and girls they promote smart agriculture to women smallholder farmers, creating a voice as well as resilience reducing the risk of food insecurity. Furthermore, the NGOs focus on the power relations within the household whilst they implement projects on the household level. Though the NGOs work on a national local level, some of their strategies include similar methods as the INGOs by working with the local civil society on the local level. An example of this can be found in the prognostic frame, whereas it is expressed that SWT is using this strategy by supporting as well



as working in collaboration with women and girl-led organizations in arid and semi-arid counties in Kenya to address GBV within indigenous communities. Furthermore, working as the middle hand by supporting smaller community led responses to humanitarian crises with micro-grants.

Conclusion

Starting the conclusion by stating that the process of addressing increased GBV as a risk of climate change is far from finished but in the midst of development. The connection between the two crises are proved due to the works of the civil society, acknowledging their crucial work. However, both the INGOs and the NGOs have the interest of continuing the work in the area due to the harm climate change does to a population depending on agriculture or living in poverty. Though, as presented throughout the thesis, working with gender questions are in some aspects disregarded due to cultural norms or governmental interference.

Concluding the thesis by addressing the central research questions,

- How do INGOs and local NGOs define the link between GBV and climate change, and what strategies do they prioritize?
- What are the differences and similarities in strategies between INGOs and local Kenyan NGOs in addressing GBV as a risk of climate change ?
- What are the key challenges faced by these organizations when working on GBV and climate change issues?
- What contextual or operational factors are behind any differences in the approaches?

Starting off with the first question, the link is defined by the INGOs through theory and research whereas it is proven by the experience and increase of women in safe haven communities in the local NGOs perspectives. However, the prioritization of the strategies connects to the other three questions. The approaches taken by the INGOs and NGOs differ but have the same aim in



their strategies. Due to the different premises of the organizations in the sense of being recognized in the international sphere versus being a part of the local community creates different opportunities as well as challenges. The INGOs need to familiarize themselves within the community and have to endover the challenge of being seen as neo-colonialist whereas the NGOs are not represented in the international sphere making it harder to mobilise their movement to get attention and funding by the international sphere. However, the organization examined within this study was chosen due to their work with GBV and climate change, concluding that they work through the challenges that promote different roots for the same goals.

As mentioned above, the strategies are aimed towards creating a sustainable resilience for rural, indigenous and pastoral women or aimed directly at the crisis of women being victim to GBV as well as creating safe havens for the victims. These projects are not aimed at the linkages of GBV and climate change but could be an act that creates more safe and sustainable livelihoods for women as well as decrease the risk of the increased GBV in the aftermath of climate change. Though, due to the fact that it is proven that climate change generates an increase in GBV, the strategies for acting against it should not be the result of other projects aimed at other issues. The fact that the linkages between the two issues is on the agenda for the INGOs, may be the evidence that a more efficient strategy to could be conducted to combat the GBV in climate change rather than just focusing on the strategies to bring gender into the climate discussions, but to bring in the evidence of the violence into the climate conversation. Leading to recommendations to further the research as well as creating projects aimed specifically at the issue that has been in several aspects proved, that increased GBV is a consequence of climate change.



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