

Climate justice for deprived, marginalized & vulnerable populations

21 October | 2024 | Climate justice in FFP

Shonali Pachauri

Overview

- Some aspects of climate injustices
- Some aspects of energy inequities
- Some insights for FFP

Two-way relationship between energy, sustainable development & climate change

Energy use and climate change impact natural and human living conditions, and social/economic development



Society's priorities on energy sources used and sustainable development influence GHG emissions, causing climate change and vulnerability

Aspects of climate injustices

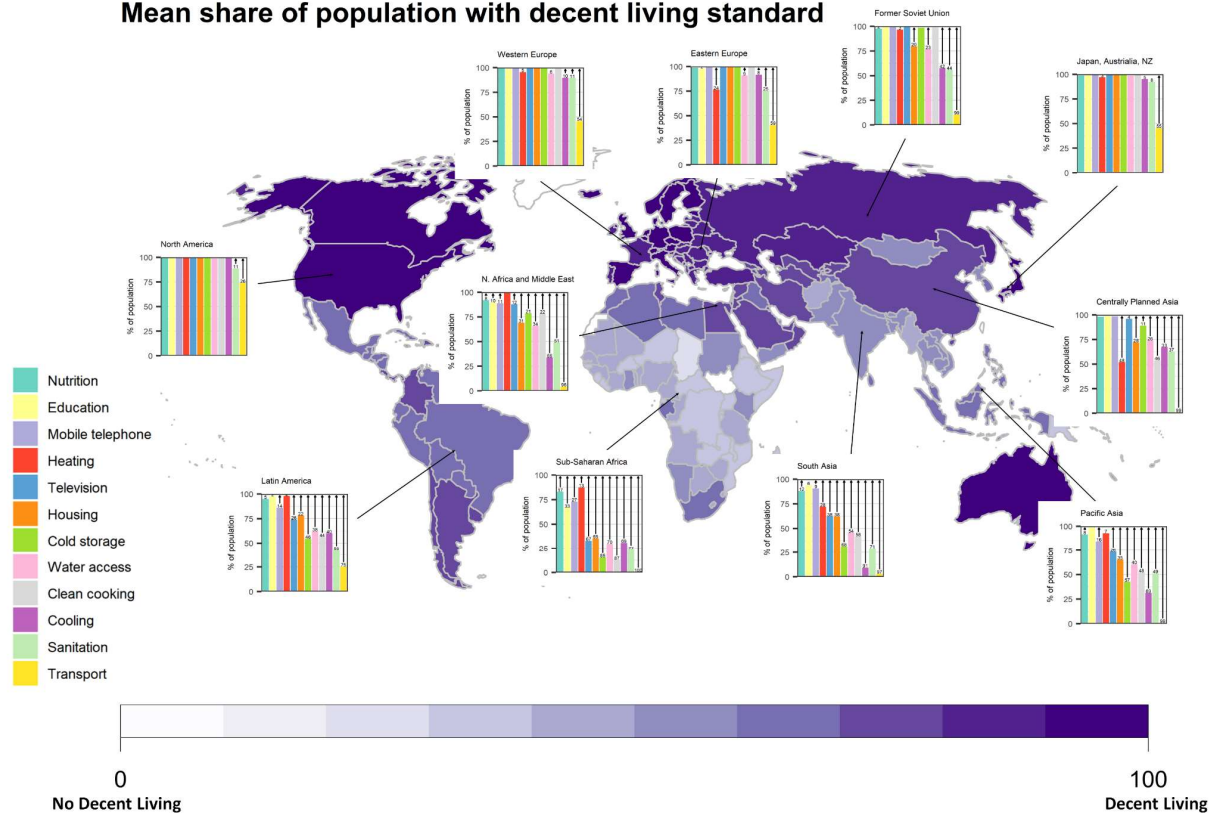
Unequal progress on the SDGs: **SDG 5** – gender equality in LMICs far behind



Sachs et al 2024

Widespread deprivation of decent living standards in the Global South

Mean share of population with decent living standard



DLS
dimensions

Housing

Thermal comfort

Food & nutrition

Food preparation

Water

Sanitation

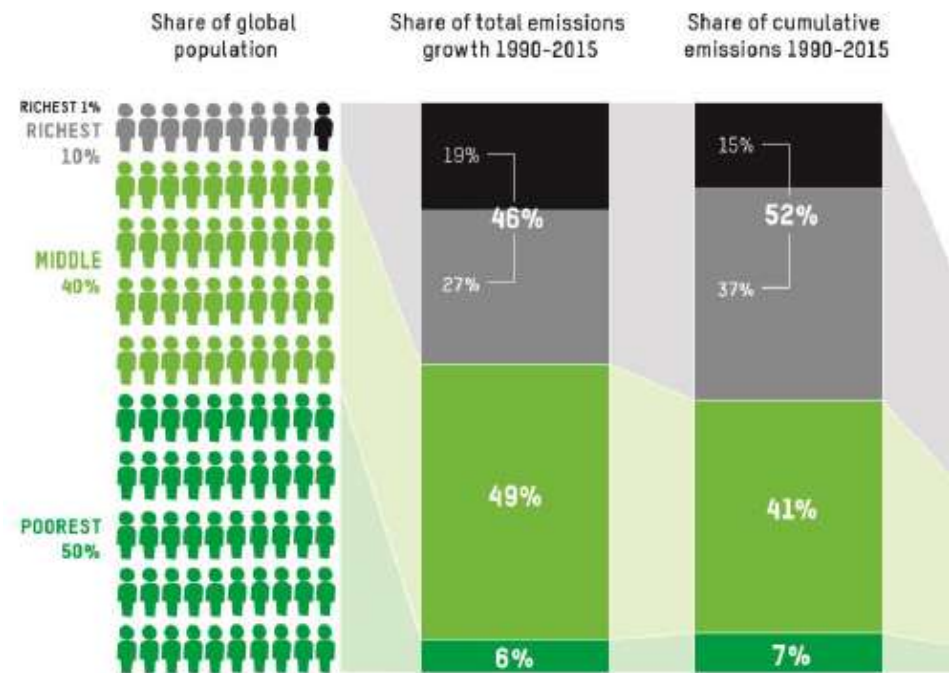
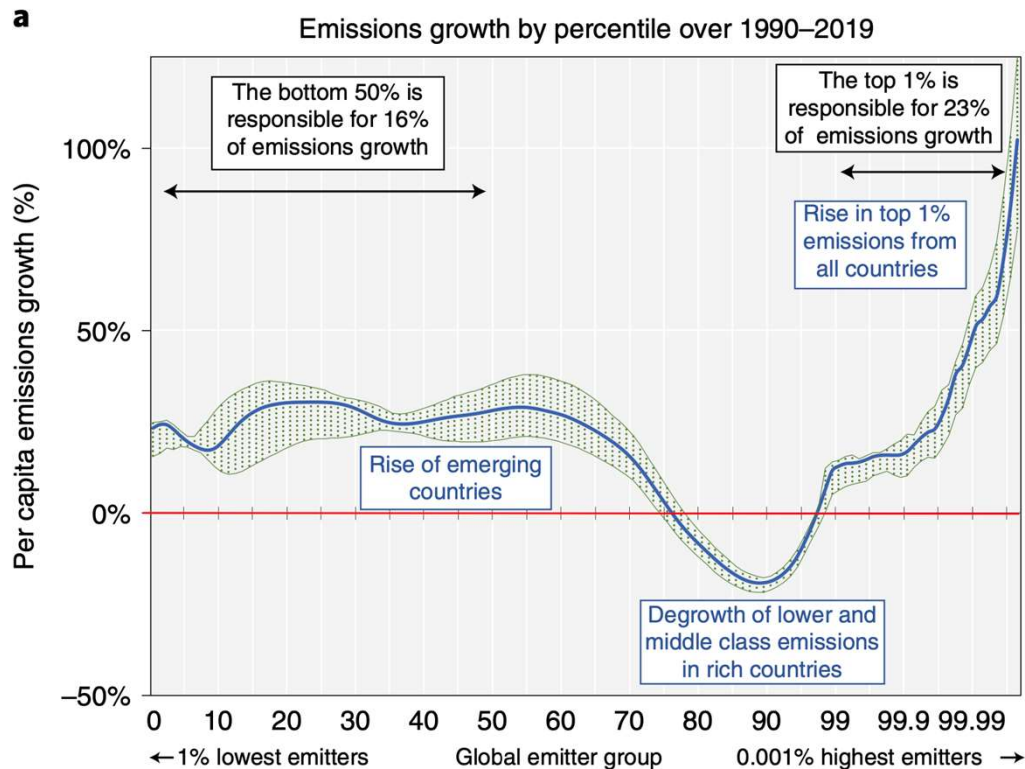
Health care

Education

Social
connectedness

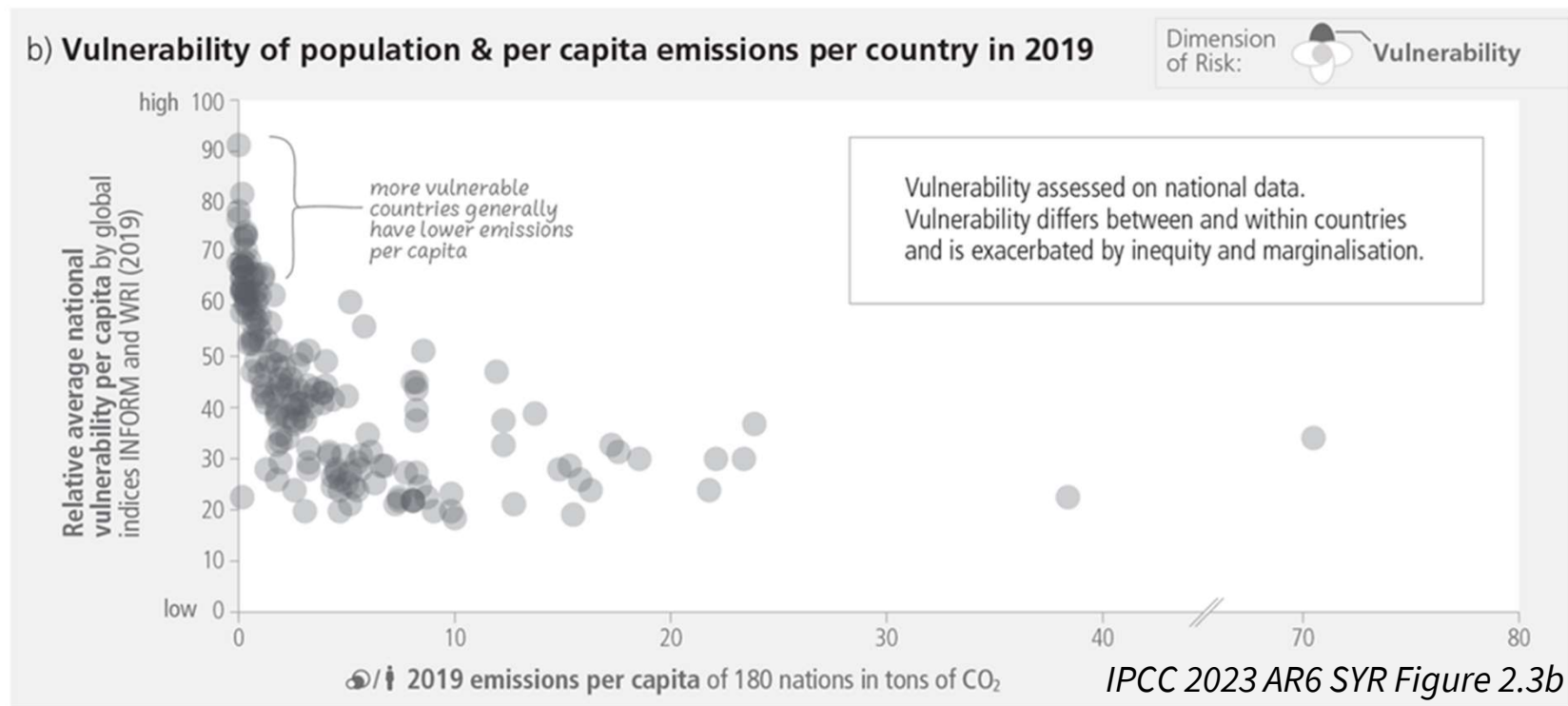
Physical
connectedness

Divergence in who contributes how much to emissions growth



Chancel 2019; Oxford 2020

Lowest contributors are generally most vulnerable to climate impacts



Some ways gender inequality intersects with climate change

Women are disproportionately affected by climate extremes:

- Lower adaptive capacity due to lack of access to resources
- More susceptible to water-related infections
- Unable to swim/prevented by traditional clothing

...and in the aftermath of climate extremes:

- Exposed to domestic violence
- Increased likelihood of early marriage
- Increased likelihood to interrupt or end schooling

...while men are unfavorably affected in the following:

- More exposed in the building sector
- More likely to die in floods and storms
- More likely to be victims of suicide & depression during droughts

Strengthening institutions and decision-making:

- Higher share of women in parliament - more stringent climate policy
- Female bureaucrats more likely to promote green procurement

Strengthening human capital:

- Female researchers % positively associated with innovative capacity
- More labor force available to support clean energy transition

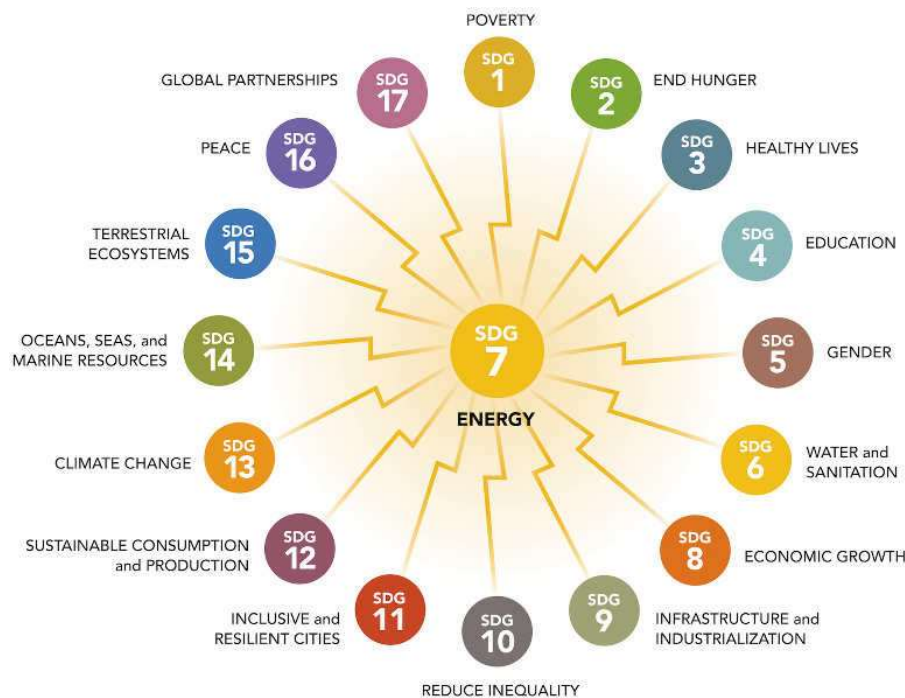
Behavioral change to low-emissions lifestyles:

- Higher gender equality - weaker link between GDP per capita and CO2 emissions
- Women's consumer choices tend to be more "climate friendly"

Aspects of energy inequities

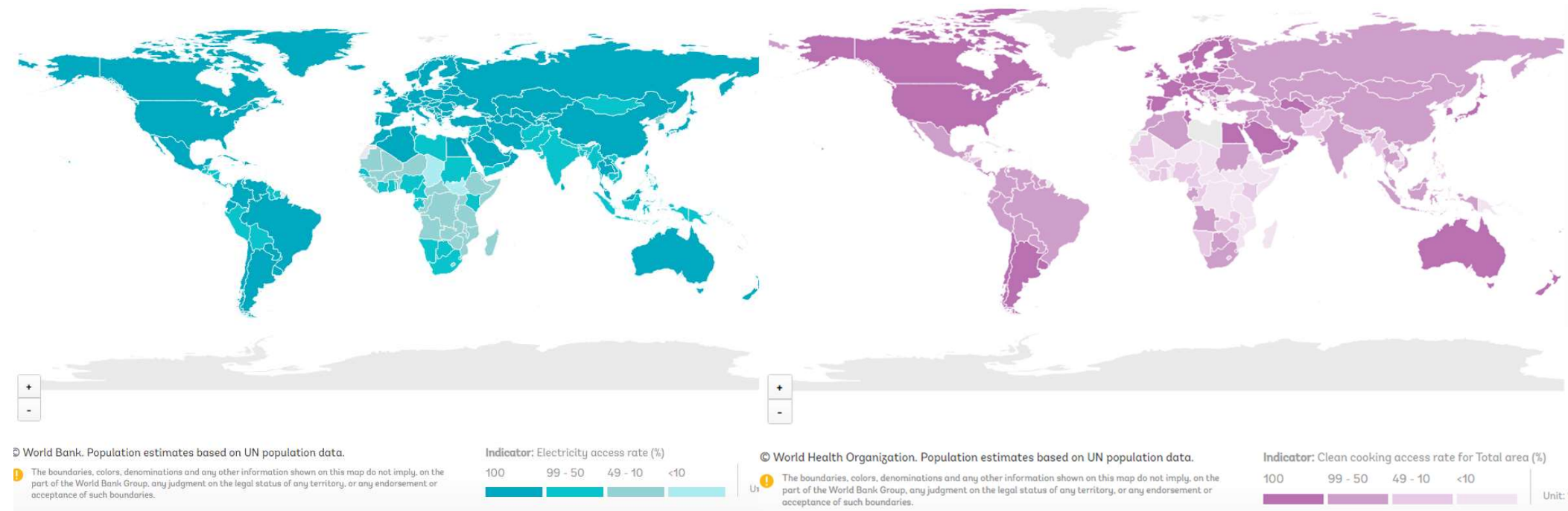
Centrality of SDG7 – The Energy SDG

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



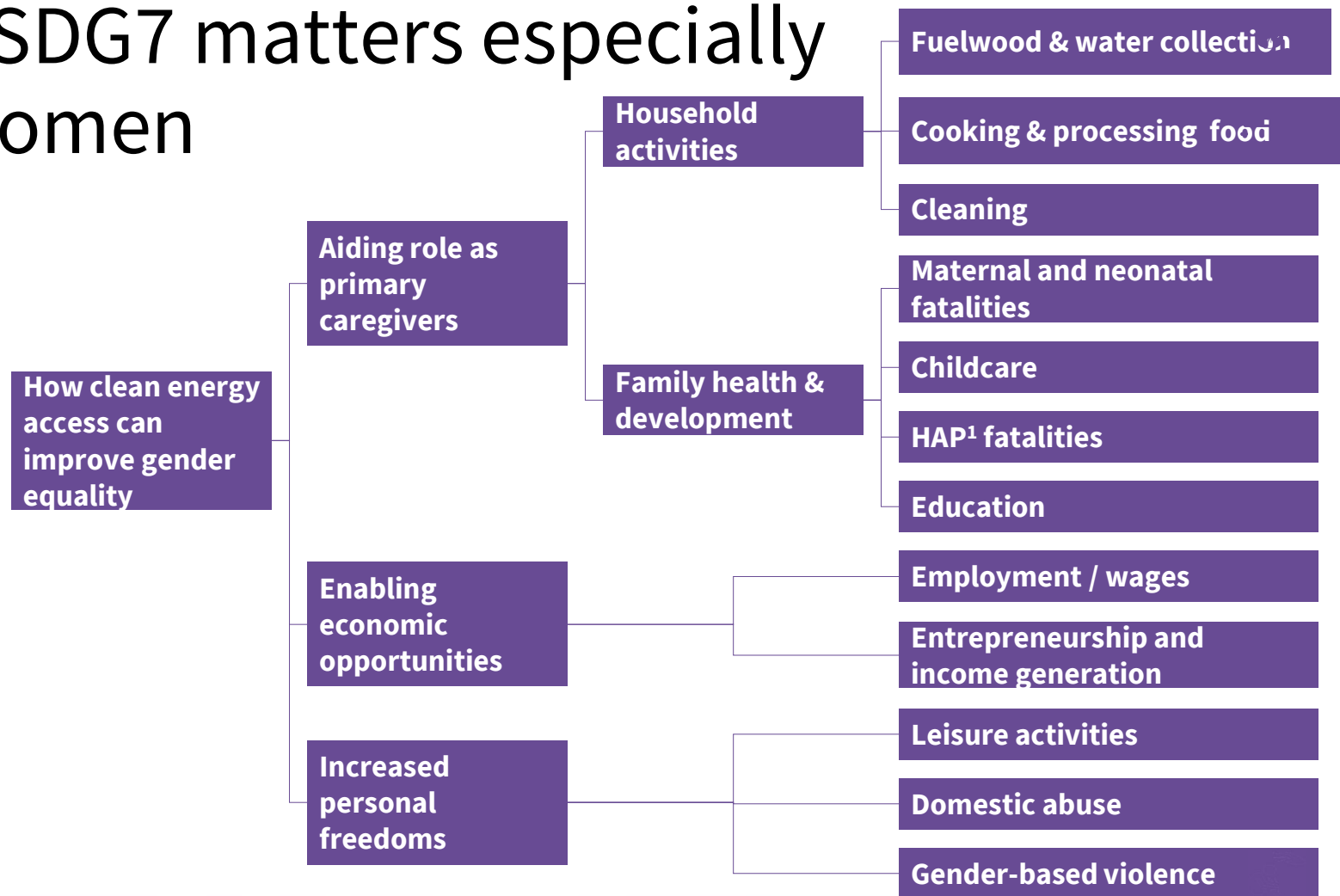
- Energy **fundamental** to all aspects of human life
- **Inequities in energy access and use** globally
 - ~1 billion without electricity
 - ~3 billion without clean cooking
 - Average use in the USA > 30 times that in Haiti
- **Externalities** from current fossil-based energy systems are damaging
 - Harmful emissions that affect the vulnerable and deprived disproportionately
 - Health of the planet, people, crops, and biodiversity impacted

Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology



World Bank – SDG7 Global Tracking

Why SDG7 matters especially for women



Multi-faceted gender-based energy injustices

Energy access improvements can boost gender equality, but benefits may be unequally distributed



Gendered differences in energy needs and decision-making power can lead to unfair outcomes



Gendered decision-making can result in:

Lights or fans not placed in kitchens where women need them

Men purchasing TVs and radios but refusing appliances that benefit women

Men dismissing health risks of traditional cooking to avoid buying cleaner stoves

Electrification alone may not benefit women's productivity & productive uses

Electrification alone does not guarantee improved productivity for women due to persistent social and economic barriers.




Women's access to electricity often remains limited to domestic tasks, with minimal focus on enhancing income-generating activities.



Gender norms may restrict women's ability to leverage electricity for productive uses, such as running businesses or accessing technology.



Additional interventions like skills training, financial resources, and policy changes are essential to unlock the full potential of electrification for women.



Without addressing unequal power dynamics and access to resources, electrification may reinforce existing gender inequalities.

Insights and recommendations for FFP

- Be inclusive in the planning and design of actions aimed at improving energy access and addressing climate change
- Be aware of social norms, customs and power relations that shape existing inequities
- Direct ODA to projects and programs that have a specific focus on improving wellbeing for women, deprived, and vulnerable populations
- Evaluate programs and projects to assess not just overall effects but also how benefits and costs are distributed across genders and different population segments, particularly the most deprived


Thank you.

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
Schlossplatz 1, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria

 iiasa.ac.at

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Shonali Pachauri
Energy, Climate, and Environment (ECE) Program
pachauri@iiasa.ac.at