

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS OLDER PERSONS

LIFE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Adults older than 65 are more likely to die during disasters. They may have difficulty reaching safety and may face discrimination and abuse in disaster response. Air pollution, heat waves and infectious diseases also impact them more.



WATER AND SANITATION

Older persons are greatly affected by water insecurity and physical, financial, and design barriers in existing water and sanitation services. They are more prone to dehydration and diseases associated with poor sanitation.



FOOD INSECURITY

Older persons may struggle with the rising costs of food or with the lack of traditional or nutritious foodstuffs. They may physically be less able to access food distribution points in emergency situations.



FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Older persons may face difficulties in using mobility as a short term coping mechanism or long term adaptation strategy to climate change impacts



HOUSING

Older persons are more likely to lack adequate heating and cooling systems to adapt to new temperature extremes. After disasters, they are more prone to property loss due to lack of insurance, limited personal finances, and poor credit-worthiness.



LIVELIHOODS

Many older persons rely on livelihoods that are highly affected by climate change like subsistence agriculture. They often are more reliant on them and have limited access to the support needed to adapt to new ones.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

In many communities older persons play a role in safeguarding traditional practices and knowledge. Older persons often bear a particular burden when climate change threatens cultural practices, heritage sites or their traditions. Climate change may have **far-reaching implications for the mental health and overall quality of life of older people**. These effects can be aggravated by ageism, poverty, neglect and other factors including gender, disability and race. At the same time, older persons possess enormous knowledge, experience, skills, and resilience that give them the capacity to be key contributors in global efforts to fight the climate crisis.

Let's build a climate response that leaves no one behind!