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Issue: Women and children are mostly affected in climate change and usually struggling to adapt and recover from climate related shocks. In Tanzania women are affected with climate change specifically on the use firewood as the main source of energy especially in rural areas. Statistics shows women and girls are abused sexually and physically in search for firewood. This is influenced by gender inequalities in the society where women and girls are responsible for searching for firewood due to cultural norms and social economic status in the society.

Description: The United Republic of Tanzania made advancement to promote gender equality by developing a National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children, 2017/2018-2021/2022. The NPA-VAWC represents a strategic shift in thinking about how Tanzania will address the problem gender inequality through capacity building of women and girls to avoid, adopt and recover from climate related shocks and stresses taking their vulnerabilities resulting from cultural norms and social economic status in their society.

Through the NPA, the government in collaboration with stakeholders is strengthening community structures with a focus on empowering women to pursue social economic opportunities. This will enable women to use alternative energy for cooking, such as charcoal and gas, which is environment-friendly.

Lessons learnt: Women economic empowerment is key in influencing gender equality and fighting against violence against women. Empowering women and girls is empowering the society.