

IN BRIEF

# EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES

EMPOWER PHASE II (2023-2027)





Photo: UNEP/Reza Shariar Rahman

## BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are unequally felt across Asia and the Pacific region. Women and marginalized groups have less access to information, resources, finance and technologies, leaving them with greater challenges in coping and rebuilding after a crisis.

With urgent measures needed to address the climate emergency, most countries in the region have joined international agreements and adopted policies aimed at galvanizing action on climate change and disaster risk reduction while hastening the global energy transition. There has also been an advancement ensuring these actions include a gender equality perspective. However, when it comes to implementation of the gender-responsive policies, the region generally has limited capacity to translate policy commitments into implementable actions.

Women and people from marginalized communities remain underrepresented in climate change, energy transition and disaster risk reduction (DRR) related decision-making.

Women can be powerful actors in accelerating change. But this requires collective, rapid efforts by governments, development partners, private sector, financing institutes, civil society groups and local communities.

Without their participation, representation and leadership, the solutions and response to the climate emergency will continue to exclude their needs and undermine their rights.

Through the first phase of the EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies project (2018-2022), UN Women, UNEP and partners have successfully engineered alternative livelihoods for vulnerable communities, reduced emissions through renewable energy and sparked intergovernmental commitments to ensure gender-responsive policies and actions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the next five years, UN Women and UNEP will scale up the lessons learned and the approaches developed by implementing the second phase of the EmPower project (2023-2027).





Photo: UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng

## KEY FACTS



### Project Title

EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies (Phase II)



### Responsible Agencies

UN Women and UN Environment Programme



### Duration

5 years (January 2023 – December 2027)



### Geographical Coverage

Asia-Pacific region with a focus on Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO SCALE UP FOR BROADER IMPACT



**2,000+ women**  
from Bangladesh, Cambodia and  
Viet Nam benefitted from  
country-level climate interventions



**11 key policies**  
on climate change, renewable  
energy and DRR adopted  
integrating gender equality



**425 women**  
have built climate-resilient  
livelihoods



**5 intergovernmental  
decisions**  
on climate change made  
increasing commitments to  
gender equality



**2,000 people**  
have increased capacity through  
e-learning on gender equality  
and human rights in climate  
action and renewable energy



**50+ women-focused  
organisations and CSOs**  
were empowered to influence  
decision making on climate change,  
renewable energy and DRR



*After the installation of solar water  
pumps, irrigation has been easier.  
There is a reliable source of water  
during the dry season. I can also save  
a lot of time. During the rainy  
season, I use it to pump excess water  
out of crops.*

Mrs. Duek Da from Cambodia  
Farmer and beneficiary of the EmPower project

## OUR APPROACH TO AMPLIFY RESULTS AND RAISE AMBITIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Strengthening regional capacity and action	Foster regional collaboration to drive action to fulfil commitments on gender-responsive climate change, renewable energy and DRR policies and planning, using the experiences and evidence from the countries in the region.
Ensuring national implementation and monitoring	Provide implementation support to assist national counterparts in delivering on commitments in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans.
Applying the wealth of knowledge generated	Apply newly developed tools, methodologies, guidebooks, e-learning and evidence through dedicated support to duty-bearers and rights-holders regionally and nationally. Provide dedicated regional technical advice, share resources and expertise, engage in discourses and scale up community-based and country-level practices on gender-responsive and rights-based actions on climate change, renewable energy and DRR.
Mobilizing investment in renewable energy using methodologies developed	Leverage and extend credit lines and appropriate financing instruments and methodologies with local banks, private sector, and financial institutions to advance investment using the piloted work supporting women entrepreneurs in renewable energy for climate-resilient livelihoods.
Ensuring key barriers for women, including GBV, are linked to climate change and that COVID-19 impacts and recovery are central to programme efforts	Continue to expand decision-making spaces, raise awareness and support the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV). Build on established networks and platforms on gender equality and climate change in countries and the region and lean on UN Women's mandate, experience and local partners working on GBV.



# PROJECT STRATEGY

## IMPACT

People in Asia-Pacific experience greater gender equality and the full enjoyment of their rights, including equal access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

## OUTCOMES

Asia-Pacific actors increase action on gender responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Women in all their diversity and other marginalized groups are represented as key environmental actors in climate and DRR decision-making.

Women and other marginalized groups in Asia-Pacific engage in climate-resilient livelihoods.

## OUTPUTS

Regional and national actors are more knowledgeable to implement and monitor gender-responsive and human rights-based climate change, renewable energy and DRR policies and plans.

Investment in renewable energy and green technology in the region is scaled up and promoted based on a gender-responsive approach and the principle of leaving no one behind.

Women leaders, national and regional CSOs and networks supporting women and other marginalized groups are better equipped to engage in climate change and DRR negotiations and decision-making.

Public awareness of women's leadership in climate action, renewable energy and DRR is improved, including awareness of prevention strategies for GBV and gender-based discrimination.

Women and other marginalized groups in the region have access to resources, including finance, for renewable energy-based businesses and climate-resilient technologies.

Women and other marginalized groups have strengthened skills for climate-resilient livelihoods, including in the renewable energy sector.

## WHERE WE WANT TO BE IN 2027



**3,500 policymakers**  
will have enhanced skills to apply knowledge and skills on gender and human rights in their work



**10 policies and actions**  
that are gender-responsive and human rights-based will be implemented and monitored



**100 women focused CSOs**  
will participate in platforms and dialogues, including policymaking spaces



**1,200 women**  
will be connected to renewable energy-based and climate-resilient livelihoods



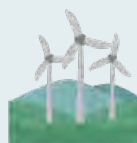
**5,000 women**  
will have enhanced technical skills to run renewable energy businesses



**500 women's enterprises**  
will have access to finance for renewable energy-based businesses



**USD 4 million**  
of additional investment on renewable energy initiatives will be mobilized



**61,600 tonnes**  
of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions equivalent will be reduced due to renewable energy interventions throughout their lifetime

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Governments
- Communities
- Women Entrepreneurs
- Civil Society Organizations
- Private Sector
- UN Partners
- Regional Networks and Development Partners
- Intergovernmental Organizations

UN Women and UNEP welcome partnerships with key stakeholders to promote gender-responsive climate action through the EmPower project. Please reach out to the respective focal points listed below for more information on how you can get involved.



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