

JULY 2021 • ISSUE 1

IN THE LOOP

EmPower's Biannual Newsletter

Photo: UN Women/Pathumporn Thongking

Reporting on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Viet Nam

The State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Viet Nam aimed to provide an analysis of the gendered impacts of climate change in the country and support gender mainstreaming in policies related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It outlined the key linkages between gender and climate change in the sectors of agriculture, energy, and, water and waste management which had been prioritized in their updated nationally determined contribution (NDC).

The report was launched on 28 April during a national dissemination workshop held in Hanoi. The study and its supplementary brief for policymakers have since contributed to the implementation of Viet Nam's updated NDC and National Adaptation Plan for 2021-2030 through the inclusion of gender equality and gender considerations in the process of realizing Viet Nam's climate goals.



Photo: UN Women Viet Nam/Dinh Phuong Anh/Hoang Bich Thao

KEY UPDATES

- Support for implementation provided to the governments of Viet Nam and Cambodia after the submission of their updated nationally determined contributions in 2020
- Capacity of CSO leaders, key line ministries and women entrepreneurs in understanding and applying gender concepts in climate action increased
- Tighter coordination established between CSOs and government agencies working on gender equality and climate change
- Policy changes made to strengthen gender equality and human rights in the policy landscape of climate change, renewable energy, and disaster risk reduction
- Series of science-based policy assessments on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change at the country and sub-regional level published
- Collection of gender statistics and data on the household level impacts of climate change piloted
- Women's enterprise development and livelihood generation activities integrated into national solar irrigation programmes
- Opening of women's access to funding for renewable energy businesses support women entrepreneurs



A Vietnamese woman is seen drying incense in Lao Cai, where renewable energy is being used for different types of climate resilient livelihoods to increase productivity.

Photo: UN Environment Programme/Center of Help for Indigenous Value Promotion and Sustainable Environment (CHIASE)

Contributing to Green Recovery

UNEP and its partners in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam have so far provided training to 177 individual women entrepreneurs from 66 women's entrepreneurial groups/enterprises on financial literacy, renewable energy (RE) technology, business development and enterprise development through face-to-face and online training. Around 500 women and 20 additional groups will be trained within the next few months.

Apart from capacity-building, the EmPower program has also made progress on ensuring women-led enterprises are adequately funded. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, there have been 2 national agreements established that will provide funding schemes and dedicated credit lines geared towards supporting women's entrepreneurship in RE with the commitment of both the government and banks in place.

At the same time, the funding mechanisms in all 3 countries have been secured and EmPower's national partners have provided co-funding amounting to 300,000 USD which will expand the number of women supported by the programme. The fund in Bangladesh was established in partnership with the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL). In Cambodia, it was set up with the assistance of the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat (NCDDS). Meanwhile, 3 funding

mechanisms can be utilized in Viet Nam through the Vietnam Women's Union with the support of CHIASE and GreenID.

Another welcome development is that 3 provincial action plans for Viet Nam have been approved. A section on renewable energy and women's economic empowerment have also been included in the official investment plan of two provinces in Cambodia, while the preparation for one national action plan has started in Bangladesh.



Looking to get inspired? Watch this [video!](#)

Working with CSOs to Accelerate Change

In order to strengthen the role of CSOs in ensuring that climate action on the ground integrates gender equality, the Training Manual on Gender and Climate Resilience was developed. It was designed to foster understanding on the importance of mainstreaming gender into climate policies, programmes, and budgets at the regional, national and local level. The manual was piloted through virtual workshops in 3 countries with the support of the Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies, Action Aid in Cambodia and the Center for Environment and Community Research in Viet Nam. This was followed by a digital release on 30 June.



Advocating at the Regional Level

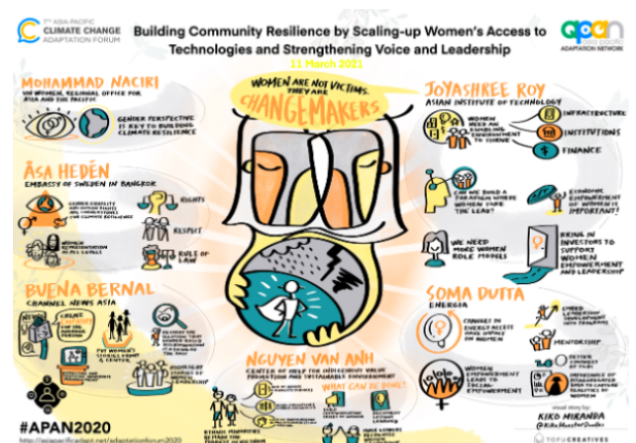
UN Women contributed to discussions on the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development by providing gender fact sheets on all nine SDGs that were under review, including SDG 13 on Climate Action. The gender and human rights aspect of the SDG progress in the region was then strongly integrated in inter-governmental deliberations.

Meanwhile, UNEP and UN Women co-organized a panel discussion during the UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum that brought together different sectors in order to explore how businesses can contribute to sustainability that benefits the most vulnerable within society, including women and girls.

At the Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum, the EmPower team was involved in 3 events. One of which was a side event held in partnership with the Embassy of Italy in Thailand commemorating International Women’s Day 2021. Another was a panel discussion on Supporting Human Rights-

based Inclusive Resilience for All with OHCHR and the last session was on the topic of Building Community Resilience by scaling up women’s access to technologies and strengthening their voice and leadership.

On the occasion of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, the Asia Pacific regional offices of UNEP and UN Women also joined forces with the regional offices of UNEP and UN Women in Europe and Central Asia to co-host a side event on Gender Inclusive Climate Actions. It aimed to promote collaboration across countries, regions, and generations by sharing good practices and lessons learned that can spark engagement and inform a blueprint for action towards a more inclusive and climate-resilient future.



Growing Women-led Renewable Energy Enterprises with PFAN

UNEP and the Private Financing Advisory Network are working together to support women entrepreneurs in climate resilience and clean energy businesses by providing them with technical support to achieve investment-readiness, investor introductions and matchmaking, and business coaching. As part of this joint effort, a webinar on Investment Opportunities for Women-led Climate and Clean Energy Businesses was organized on 1 April to increase awareness on how climate resilience can be achieved by supporting women entrepreneurs involved in the green economy.

Then, UNEP and PFAN once again came together during the Asia Clean Energy Forum 2021 to co-host a side event that highlighted the experiences of women entrepreneurs in the field of renewable energy and facilitated discussions on the way forward for women-led sustainable enterprises accelerating decarbonization.



Promoting Learning on Gender-responsive Climate Action

Aimed at fostering cross-country dialogues to understand the importance of gender integration in addressing environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change, "People and Planet: Gender, Environment and Climate in the 2030 Agenda" served as a global learning event. UN Women facilitated the sessions in the Bangkok hub while other discussions took place in the hubs of Nairobi, Amman, and Härnösand.

To commemorate Earth Day 2021, a regional dialogue was organized by UN Women. "Feminist Climate Action for All" helped to identify the challenges and key actions needed to ensure a sustainable and inclusive future post COVID-19.

Finally, UN Women and the NAP Global Network also co-organized a peer-to-peer learning event to identify the entry points and the enabling factors for gender-responsive climate actions within the framework of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), bringing together government representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.



A group of Vietnamese women engaged in incense production

Photo: UN Environment Programme/CHIASE

EMPOWER IN THE NEWS

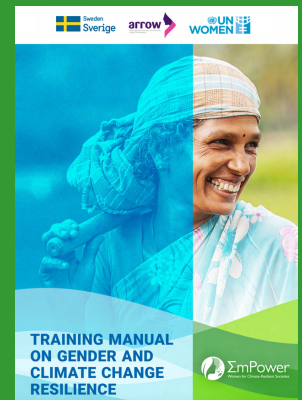
Click the links below ▾

- Can We Achieve Gender Equality With Renewable Energy?
- Apolitical's 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy
- The Case for Women Running Shift to Renewables
- Solar power charges pandemic recovery for indigenous farmers in Viet Nam
- How renewable energy could open the door for economic empowerment for women
- Could Cambodian Financial Institutions be the next impact investing catalysts? We believe so.
- Why women should be at the forefront of world's sustainable Covid-19 recovery
- Rural Women Can Drive Green Recoveries

NEW RESOURCES

Click the links below ▾

- Gender Integration in Renewable Energy Policy – A Guideline for Renewable Energy Policy and Decision Makers
- Review of Gender-responsiveness and Disability-inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific
- Climate Change, Gender Equality and Human Rights in Asia: Regional Review and Promising Practices
- The Only Way Is Up: Monitoring and Encouraging Diverse SOGIESC Inclusion in the Humanitarian and DRR Sectors
- The State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Viet Nam
- Brief for Policymakers: The State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Viet Nam
- Training Manual on Gender and Climate Resilience



HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIGITAL CAMPAIGN

The "Feminist Climate Action for All" regional dialogue held by UN Women during Earth Day was a venue to build momentum for the work of advancing progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action under the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice. (Read more about the event [here](#).)

It also highlighted the key findings of the report entitled Climate Change, Gender Equality and Human Rights in Asia: Regional Review and Promising Practices, which informed the key messages of the social media campaign that was launched during the event. The digital campaign on human rights and climate change ran from April to June and garnered a total of 38,000 impressions and 1,642 engagements across all the social media channels of UN Women.

