



Photo: UN Women/Shararat Islam

EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN BANGLADESH

BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change are unequally felt across Asia and the Pacific. 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.

In 2018, UN Women and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) initiated the **EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies Programme (EmPower)** with support from the Government of Sweden to accelerate gender-responsive and human rights-based climate actions in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Viet Nam and in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

As the programme enters its second phase in 2023, it has expanded to include Indonesia and the Philippines with support from the Governments of Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland.

Under the first phase of the programme, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in mainstreaming gender in climate, disaster and energy-related policies. For instance, with the support of UN Women and UNEP, the country reviewed and updated its Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) and adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) on Renewable Energy and Women Entrepreneurship for Bangladesh.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Programme 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



STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANGLADESH



The Global Climate Risk Index ranks Bangladesh as the **7th most affected** by extreme weather events, such as storms, floods and droughts. The frequency and intensity of these events are being exacerbated by climate change.



Over the past 50 years, the average temperature in Bangladesh has **increased by approximately 0.5°C**. By 2050, the annual average temperature in Bangladesh is expected to rise by **1°C - 1.5°C**.



The impacts of climate change are unequally felt across Bangladesh. **The most vulnerable communities** are at risk of injuries, displacement, food and water insecurity and loss of livelihoods, among others.



Women, in particular, experience greater challenges in coping and rebuilding after a crisis due to the **lack of access to information, resources, finance and technologies**.

Building on the first phase of EmPower, UNEP and UN Women are scaling up the work from 2023.

Phase II is leveraging a variety of tools, methodologies, and data to implement existing plans and policies for gender-responsive, human rights-based climate action. The programme is expanding the scope for women and other marginalized and gender-diverse groups to shape decisions and build resilience, including through access to finance, technology and renewable energy as a driver of better livelihoods.

For this, further support is needed to unlock finance for women to build climate-resilient livelihoods, and to bring women's leadership to the forefront of climate action and the just energy transition.



PROGRAMME STRATEGY – PHASE II

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.

Outcome 1: Asia-Pacific actors increase action on gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Activities:

- Support the Government to implement the Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) through an investment plan as well as a monitoring framework.
- Strengthen the capacity and knowledge of relevant local stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and climate change and foster collaboration to create a gender-responsive and climate-resilient society.
- Support inclusive and sustainable investments in renewable energy to advance women's economic empowerment.
- Support partner financial institutions' capacity to deploy capital through newly developed financial mechanisms to scale up investment into women's enterprises with the use of clean energy technologies.
- Support partner financial institutions to integrate ESG assessment procedures into their loan/investment approval process for clean energy loans to women's enterprises.

Outcome 2: Women in all their diversity and other marginalized groups are represented as key environmental actors in climate and DRR decision-making.

Activities:

- Foster collaboration among national, sub-national, and local women-led organizations (WLOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to advance their leadership and participation in gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation actions in the country and beyond.
- Establish women's leadership in locally led adaptation agenda by enabling community women leaders to lead community-identified low-cost adaptation schemes.
- Undertake public awareness campaigns to address harmful social norms limiting women's leadership in climate action.

PHASE II KEY TARGETS IN BANGLADESH



USD 4M

of investment in gender-responsive renewable energy entrepreneurship will be mobilized.



23,000

women will benefit from climate-resilient livelihoods and services.



350

women's enterprises will build climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy.



105

women and marginalized individuals will have increased capacity and agency to exercise leadership in decision-making processes.



2

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



INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS

will increase commitments to gender equality.



Reti Khatun, goat farmer and partner of EmPower
Photo: UNEP/Reza Shariar Rahman

Outcome 3: Women and other marginalized groups in Asia-Pacific engage in climate-resilient livelihoods.

Activities:

- Facilitate the access of women and other marginalized communities to resources, including finance and climate-resilient technologies, and strengthen their capacity to establish and run renewable energy-based enterprises.
- Initiate and expand collaborations with banks, financial institutions and the private sector to secure and advance investments for inclusive renewable energy-based livelihoods for women and other marginalized communities.

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

Visit www.empowerforclimate.org to learn more.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)
- Department of Women Affairs, MoWCA
- Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR)
- Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority, MPEMR
- Ministry of Planning and Investment
- Ministry of Local Government
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Water Resources
- Ministry of Fisheries
- Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University
- International Development Enterprises (iDE)
- Manusher Jonno Foundation
- SME Foundation
- Women-led organizations
- National and international NGOs
- Private sector and associations
- Financial institutions

CONTACT US

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