

EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN CAMBODIA

Photo: UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng

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, Cambodia has made considerable progress in mainstreaming gender in climate, disaster and energy-related policies. For instance, UN Women and UNEP have contributed to update Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with stronger gender mainstreaming and associated gender targets.

PROJECT 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 Cambodia



STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CAMBODIA



The Global Climate Risk Index ranks Cambodia as the **14th 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.



Forecasts predict **more extreme weather events**, potentially more severe than the 2011 flood and 2015-2016 drought.



Sea levels in the region could rise **up to over half a metre by 2090** under the high emissions scenario, which could cause permanent flooding of about 25,000 ha coastal Cambodia.



The impacts of climate change are unequally felt across Cambodia. **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 I: Asia-Pacific actors increase action on gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Activities:

- Provide technical support to the implementation and monitoring of the key climate change and disaster related policies, strategies and action plans.
- Strengthen national capacity in gender analysis and production and use of gender and environment data to inform capacity development, policy implementation, and monitoring of gender and climate-related outcomes.
- Raise awareness and undertake communications outreach on the interlinkages between gender, human rights, climate change, renewable energy, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and amplify results and learnings among broader stakeholders.
- Organize policy dialogues/discussions and identify possible policy interventions (either in existing policies or to develop new policy) that stipulate budget or financing options for banks to scale up renewable energy investments and enterprise development aligned with the principle of leaving no one behind.
- 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 in integrating ESG assessment procedures into their loan/investment approval process for clean energy loans to women's enterprises.
- Conduct analysis and mapping of prospective clean technologies and technology providers in Cambodia, which will be shared/ coordinated with partner financial institutions.



PHASE II KEY TARGETS IN CAMBODIA



USD 3M

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



24,000

women will benefit from climate-resilient livelihoods and services.



375

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



90

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



3

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



INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS

will increase commitments to gender equality.

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

Outputs:

- Support women CSOs' capacity and development of a community of practice for gender and climate action and DRR, peer-to-peer learning, and participation in national and regional policy dialogues.
- Support joint actions and initiatives among CSOs and gender advocates focusing on gender equality, climate change, renewable energy and DRR, including convening dialogues to amplify their voice in the key climate and disaster risk management related platforms and processes.
- Promote women and marginalized groups' engagement and leadership in climate action.
- Design feminist public awareness campaigns to address harmful social norms related to gender-based violence (GBV), violence against women (VAW) and limited representation and leadership of women in climate action and DRR.

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

Outputs:

- Bring together stakeholders in clean energy technologies such as NGOs, technology providers and financial institutions, and facilitate their partnerships with women's and marginalized groups.
- Support women's and marginalized groups through leadership building and technical assistance to improve skills in the use of clean energy technologies and increase their awareness and access to financial services/products for clean energy technologies.
- Raise awareness and engage with CSOs to promote climate-resilient livelihood and the use of renewable energy technology and equitable financial schemes.
- Coordinate and collaborate with private actors, CSOs and the government to link women's enterprises to existing financial support schemes and climate-resilient technologies.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Ministry of Environment
- National Committee for Disaster Management
- National Council for Sustainable Development
- National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development
- Agricultural and Rural Development Bank
- People in Need
- Women-led organizations
- Microfinance institutions

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.



Photo: UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng

CONTACT US

Rotvatey Sovann

National Programme Officer
UN Women Cambodia Programme Office
Email: rotvatey.sovann@unwomen.org

Parimita Mohanty

Programme Management Officer, Climate Change Division
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Email: mohantyp@un.org