

EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN VIET NAM

Photo: UNEP/Maxwell Gutteridge

BACKGROUND

From 2018 to 2022, UN Women and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have worked together through the first phase of the EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies project to accelerate gender-responsive and human rights-based climate actions in Viet Nam and across Asia and the Pacific.

With support from the Government of Sweden, UN Women, UNEP and partners have successfully engineered alternative climate-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable communities, reduced emissions through renewable energy and sparked commitments to ensure gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and actions in Viet Nam and in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Under the first phase of the project, Viet Nam 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 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with stronger gender mainstreaming and associated gender targets.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies

Responsible Agencies:
UN Women and UN Environment Programme

Duration: 5 Years
(January 2023 –December 2027)

Geographical Coverage:
Asia-Pacific region with a focus on Viet Nam





STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN VIET NAM



The Global Climate Risk Index ranks Viet Nam as the **13th 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 Viet Nam has **increased by approximately 0.5°C**. The sea level has risen by about **20 centimetres**.



By 2100, the annual average temperature in Viet Nam is expected to rise by **2°C - 3°C**, and the sea level will be **80-100 centimetres higher**.



The impacts of climate change are unequally felt across Viet Nam. **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 will leverage a variety of tools, methodologies, and data to implement existing plans and policies for gender-responsive, human rights-based climate action. The project will expand the scope for women and other marginalized and gender-diverse groups to shape decisions and build resilience, including through new access to finance, technology and renewable energy as a driver of better livelihoods.

For this, further support is needed to bolster the capacities of government counterparts and other related stakeholders to advance, implement and monitor gender-responsive climate policies and plans.

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.

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

Activities:

- Develop technical guidelines on gender mainstreaming in climate change plans and programmes aimed at supporting the localization and implementation of the gender equality targets set out in the National Strategy on Climate Change (2021-2030) (NSCC).
- Develop technical guidelines on gender-responsive budgeting in disaster risk management and climate change programmes, targeted at government officials to promote the incorporation of gender considerations in the allocation of disaster and climate-related finance.
- Provide capacity building and coaching to government agencies at the provincial level on the implementation of gender-responsive climate change plans.
- Support Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU) in the development and implementation of its action plans on climate change to realize gender targets in the NSCC.
- Create an environment to sustain and scale up further investment in renewable energy to promote women's economic empowerment, upholding the principle of leaving no one behind.
- Collect case studies and good practices on gender and climate change and develop communication materials to undertake campaigns to raise awareness in the country.

KEY RESULTS IN PHASE I



789

women benefited from country-level interventions



306

women have built climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy



4

funding schemes were established to enable women's access to renewable energy for climate-resilient livelihoods



20

women-led CSOs were empowered to influence decision-making on climate change, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction



NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCS) (2020)

reviewed and updated through the leadership of the Government of Viet Nam, with contributions from the project enabling stronger references to gender and inclusion of associated gender targets



Beneficiaries and partners of the EmPower project in Viet Nam
Photo: UN Women/Hoang Thao

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

Activities:

- Expand and strengthen the existing network of CSOs that were established in Phase I with networks of women-led CSOs working on gender and human rights, including gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring leadership and meaningful participation in national/regional/global dialogues and decision-making spaces on climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- Facilitate the creation of a network of women in entrepreneurship in renewable energy linking regional/cross-country.
- Provide technical and financial support to partner CSOs to implement gender-responsive and inclusive adaptation schemes.
- In collaboration with the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) projects in Viet Nam to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of government ministries, both disaster management office and gender machinery aimed at addressing social norms, GBV and discrimination. Support the integration of GBV prevention and response in DRR plans.

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

Activities:

- Facilitate women's access to resources, including finance and climate-resilient technologies.
- Strengthen the capacities of women entrepreneurs and women-led SMEs to establish and run renewable energy-based businesses.
- Organise dialogues with banks, financial institutions, and other private sectors to have an in-depth understanding of financing schemes available for renewable energy livelihoods.
- Initiate discussions with banks and other financing institutions and develop a broad guideline to create/align a dedicated financing scheme with the "leave no one behind" principle.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Viet Nam Women's Union
- Women-led CSO network on Climate Change
- Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Da Nang and Lao Cai
- Provincial Women's Union in Da Nang and Lao Cai

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