

# Policy Paper

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## Advancing Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific in the Context of Climate Change



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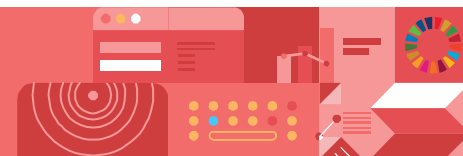
## Abbreviations and acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DRR	disaster risk reduction
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHG	greenhouse gas
GtCO <sub>2</sub> e	gigaton of carbon dioxide equivalent
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization



## Contents

Acknowledgments	i
Abbreviations and acronyms	ii
Figures, tables and boxes	iv
Explanatory notes	v
Executive summary	vi
1. Introduction	1
2. An intersectional overview of gender, climate change and climate-related disasters	4
3. The role of gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action	11
4. Gender mainstreaming in climate change strategies	24
5. Recommendations	29
6. References	32



## List of figures, tables and boxes

### List of figures

Figure 1: Proportion of persons in charge of fetching water and the distance in minutes to a water source in selected Asia-Pacific countries	5
Figure 2: Female and male employment in agriculture, 2019	7
Figure 3: Percentage of women aged 18—49 married before age 18, by aridity index	8
Figure 4: Percentage of agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex, in all Asia-Pacific countries with available data	16
Figure 5: Gender mainstreaming through four enabling factors	25
Figure 6: Examples of mainstreaming gender in climate change plans in Fiji and Kiribati	27

### List of tables

Table 1: Examples of climate-related impacts on unpaid care and domestic work	12
Table 2: Examples of care-specific initiatives in India and Tajikistan	13
Table 3: Example of joint land stewardship between spouses in the Philippines	17
Table 4: EmPower project: Women for climate resilient societies	19
Table 5: Engaging women in sharing information on disasters and climate change in Fiji	22

### List of boxes

Box 1: Gender minorities face different challenges in disasters settings	9
Box 2: Protecting the tenure rights of women	17
Box 3: Gender gaps in mobile Internet use in rural areas	20
Box 4: Gender in Climate Smart Agriculture	22



## Explanatory notes

This policy paper refers to the Asia-Pacific region and its five subregions, as follows:

**East and North-East Asia:** China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Macao, China; Mongolia; and the Republic of Korea.

**North and Central Asia:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

**South and South-West Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

**South-East Asia:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

**Pacific:** American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

This policy paper refers to concepts and terms related to gender and climate change as follows:

**Adaptation (in relation to climate change impacts)** implies adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

**Disaster risk reduction programmes and practices** are targeted at avoiding (prevention) or limiting (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development. These denote both a policy goal or objective, as well as strategic and instrumental measures employed for anticipating future disaster risk, reducing existing exposure, hazard or vulnerability, and improving resilience.

**Food security** defines sufficient, safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. Food security usually considers both physical and economic access to food and includes adequacy, availability, stability, utilization, safety and nutrition.

**Gender-responsive policies** acknowledge and consider gendered needs and interests in a specific context, and are an important step towards gender equality.

**Intersectionality (in relation to gender)** is an approach used to study, understand and respond to the ways in which gender intersects with other social factors and/or personal characteristics/identities linked to age, ethnicity, education, wealth, health status and disability status, among others, and how these intersections combine to influence unique experiences of privilege as well as social exclusion and discrimination.





## Executive summary

Gender inequality, coupled with current climate and environment crises, is one of the greatest sustainable development challenges of our time. Climate impacts and people's vulnerabilities to them are on the rise, presenting significant challenges to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development objectives in Asia and the Pacific. Climate change threatens us all by altering ecosystems, causing food insecurity and exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities across the region. The gender impacts of climate crises require special attention due to their multiplier threats to development, livelihoods and human well-being.

This policy paper employs an intersectional approach to understanding risks and challenges that climate change poses for women and other marginalized groups in Asia and the Pacific. It outlines critical responses by key stakeholders to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This paper is intended to inspire reflection, conversation and action on how to move development forward through gender mainstreaming in climate policy action. In doing so, its goal is to provide a baseline analysis for development practitioners and equip them as they advance action towards a more equitable and sustainable blue and green economy.

Utilizing an intersectional approach to understanding the differentiated impacts that climate change poses to gender equality and women's empowerment is critical to ensure effective climate action, including prevention, preparedness and recovery from climate change disasters in the region. In doing so, this policy paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the exacerbation of gender inequalities due to climate change and climate-related disasters in four key sections. The first section is an introduction to the relations between climate change, efforts to achieve gender equality and the role of international commitments in gender-responsive climate action in Asia and the Pacific. The second section provides an intersectional overview of gender, the environment and disasters in Asia and the Pacific, and how climate change continues to disproportionately impact the lives of people in vulnerable situations, such as women and children, indigenous populations, gender minorities, displaced persons and persons with disabilities. The third section offers an account of gender equality and women's empowerment by discussing the critical role of gender-responsive climate action in the region. The fourth section advocates for the importance of including gender analyses and gender mainstreaming in climate action plans, and proposes a whole-of-government approach to gender in climate action. The paper concludes with policy recommendations to enhance use of an intersectional lens with climate change policies and plans, advance gender equality and mainstream gender in climate policies and strategies in the region.

The objective of this policy paper is to raise awareness about the benefits, advantages and need for gender-responsive climate action, gender mainstreaming and gender-specific solutions to tackle the gendered impacts of climate change and catalyse increased climate ambition in Asia and the Pacific.



## 1. Introduction

Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world (ESCAP, 2023; ESCAP et al., 2021). Over the past sixty years, the increase of warm temperatures in the region has exceeded the global mean and the effects of climate change, such as biodiversity loss and climate-related disasters, have posed a serious threat to human health, food security and livelihoods (ESCAP, 2023). For instance, climate change has increased the risk and frequency of hazards, with Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam among the top 10 countries globally that are most affected (ASEAN Secretariat, 2021).

While the effects of climate change threaten everybody in the region, they do not affect all people equally. The most affected are women and children, particularly older women, girls, persons with disabilities, ethnic and gender minorities and those living in rural areas. These people are disproportionately impacted in terms of access to food and nutrition security, clean water and health.



Climate change not only increases pre-existing vulnerabilities of groups depending on multiple overlapping and interdependent inequalities, but exacerbates social, political and economic barriers they face to cope with and adapt to climate change (Resurrección et al., 2019). To reduce these inequalities, their meaningful participation in climate action and disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies is key, as it is in the development of solutions to tackle climate change, due to their knowledge and skills in adapting to and mitigating climate change at a household and community levels. Moreover, it is critical to identify and address climate action using a gender lens to reduce gender inequalities caused by climate change and achieve global commitments, such as the Paris Agreement,<sup>1</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>2</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>3</sup>

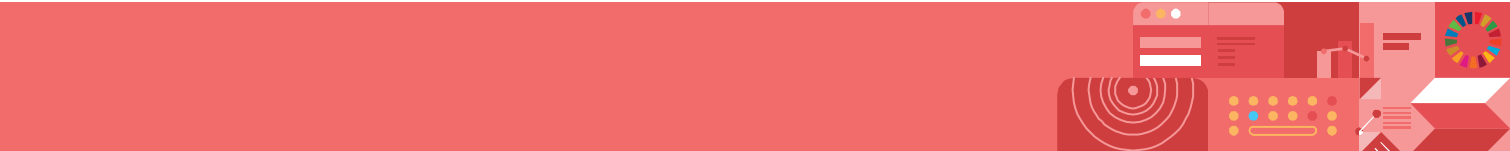
The Paris Agreement, a legally-binding international treaty that entered into force in 2016, provides a durable framework, guiding the global effort towards a net-zero emissions world. This agreement has set long-term goals to guide all nations to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global temperature increase in this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees; review countries' climate commitments every five years; and provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate impacts.<sup>4</sup> Every five years, each country is expected to submit an updated national climate action plan, known as a nationally determined contribution (NDC), with an enhanced ambition to ratchet up aggregate and individual action over time.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

<sup>3</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>4</sup> The operational details for the practical implementation of the Paris Agreement were agreed on at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018, and finalized at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021.



Its implementation, essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, calls for gender equality to tackle climate change. NDCs require the integration of gender equality and gender performance following the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the updated Gender Action Plan under five priority areas: capacity-building, knowledge management and communication; gender balance, participation and women’s leadership; coherence; gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and monitoring and reporting. The Gender Action Plan Synthesis Report, by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, provides a detailed update of the progress on gender integration into climate-related national plans and promotes the implementation of the Paris Agreement to advance gender-responsive climate action. Furthermore, to advance national adaptation efforts in the least developed and developing countries, the Cancun Adaptation Framework<sup>5</sup> establishes that national adaptation plans (NAPs) are required to formulate and implement medium- and long-term adaptation needs, and develop strategies and programmes to address those needs. NAPs should follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully-transparent approach.

To promote using a gender-lens in DRR, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction has also recognized the importance of integrating a gender perspective into all DRR policies and practices, and the need to empower women to lead and promote gender-equitable and universally-accessible responses, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.<sup>6</sup> It endorses an inclusive, all-of-society approach that acknowledges the differentiated vulnerabilities that women and men face in disasters and the crucial role of women in DRR efforts to build resilience and secure preparedness and prevention.<sup>7</sup>

Likewise, in 2018, General Recommendation No. 37 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Committee<sup>8</sup> also addresses the gender-related dimensions of DRR and climate change. The objective of this recommendation is to underscore the urgency of mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and to highlight the steps necessary to achieve gender equality by enhancing the resilience of women and girls following international agendas on DRR (OHCHR, 2018).

Given the need to guarantee gender equality in environmental decision-making, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>9</sup> pinpointed three strategic objectives for government action on the environment, which include involving women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels; integrating their concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes; and establishing ways to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women. In 2022, the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women priority theme: “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes” provided a set of concrete recommendations on advancing gender equality in the context of changing climate for

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<sup>5</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/gender>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

<sup>8</sup> This Committee is the body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

<sup>9</sup> Women and the Environment is one of the 12 critical areas of concern identified and adopted by global leaders at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.



governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level.<sup>10</sup>

Despite these efforts in promoting a gender-lens in international frameworks and commitments to address climate change, translation into action has been limited. While a series of announcements from Asia-Pacific countries to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century have been made, current ambitions, as set out in the region's NDCs, fall short of what is needed to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement (ESCAP, 2022c). Moreover, although various countries in the region have integrated gender considerations within their NDCs, there is limited attention to gender-specific needs in the context of DRR (ASEAN, 2022; UNDRR, 2021; UN Environment Programme, 2016). This can be associated with women's underrepresentation in governments, including in DRR decision-making, which results in deprioritizing and undervaluing gender-specific responses in climate governance.

Socioeconomic inequalities due to climate change continue to disproportionately impact the lives of people in vulnerable situations, such as women and children, indigenous populations, gender minorities, displaced persons and persons with disabilities. Gender norms and roles increase women's exposure and vulnerability to disasters due to their limited access to resources, information and risk communications, high poverty rates and differential exposure to hazards due to gendered work and care roles (UNDRR, 2022). As a consequence of gender-based disparities, land ownership also remains largely patriarchal; this affects rural women's ability to adapt to crises. Additionally, in climate-induced disasters – such as tropical storms, severe floods and landslides – women, girls and gender minorities face a heightened risk of the whole spectrum of violence, including rape, sexual assault and harassment, intimate partner violence, child marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation (UN Women, 2022b).

The complexities of gender inequalities, aggravated by climate change, require context-specific and intersectional approaches to generate concrete actions on regional and global commitments to climate change in Asia and the Pacific. The next section provides an overview of gender and climate-related disasters, based on data available in Asia and the Pacific, to highlight the relevance of using a robust gender-lens in climate action in the region.



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<sup>10</sup> [E/CN.6/2022/L.7](#)

## 2. An intersectional overview of gender, climate change and climate-related disasters

In Asia and the Pacific, the human and socioeconomic aspects of climate change have become more evident in recent years. In 2022, countries in the region experienced unprecedented climate-induced disasters, such as severe typhoons and floods, which resulted in human and economic losses and development strategies in gender equality and climate change ambitions regressing (ESCAP, 2022a; UN Women, 2023a).

To promote an intersectional understanding of gender and climate change, this section underlines three interrelationships<sup>11</sup> between gender and climate change, as well as climate-related disasters, namely concerning livelihoods, employment sector and well-being. It examines how climate change exacerbates gender inequalities and the implications of these inequalities on livelihoods and access to care-related resources; women's labour force participation in sectors most affected by climate change; and the gendered risks and impacts posed by climate change on women and girls. These three interrelationships do not represent an exhaustive list but are key to understanding the link between gender and climate change as well as the link between each of them due to climate change.



### 2.1. The interrelationship between gender and climate change in livelihoods

In Asia and the Pacific, the time women spend on paid and unpaid care and domestic work<sup>12</sup> is the highest among all regions in the world. In comparison to men, women spend four times more on unpaid care and domestic work (ESCAP, 2021a). Given the intensification of climatic and environmental changes, women bear increasing responsibilities for unpaid care work for people as well as for animals and places on which households depend (MacGregor et al., 2022).<sup>13</sup> Indigenous women in Asia and the Pacific, who often supplement household food supplies from nearby forests<sup>14</sup> and take their children with them, are affected by the loss of forests. With the damage of

<sup>11</sup> By this is not meant causality, rather association. While climate change undermines gender equality in the region, it is not the intention of this section to emphasize it as the cause of gender inequalities but to highlight its gender outcomes.

<sup>12</sup> Unpaid care and domestic work refer to the direct care of dependents – children, sick family members, older persons and persons with disabilities – as well as indirect care tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, domestic work and the collection of fuelwood and water (ESCAP, 2021a).

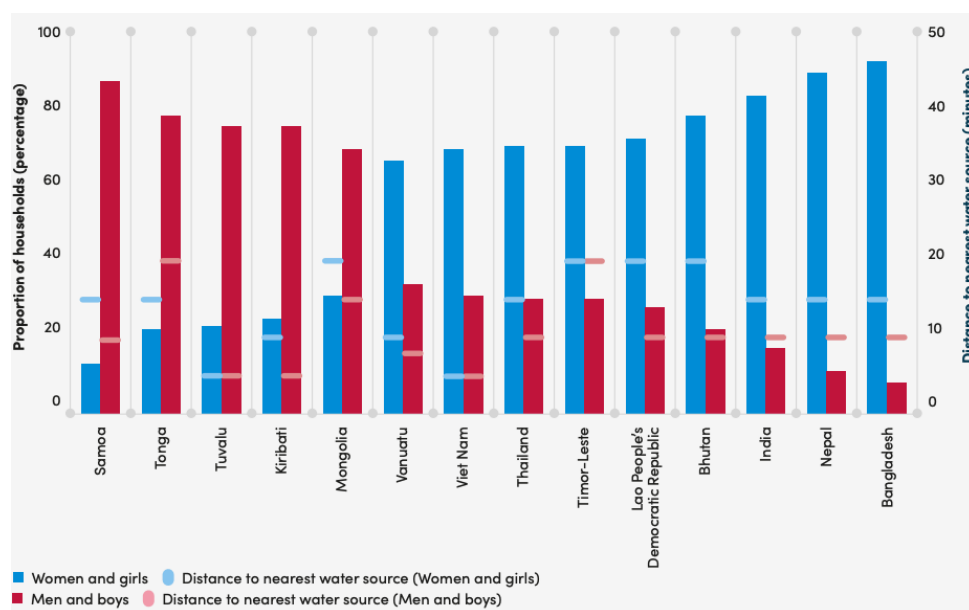
<sup>13</sup> This has been defined as 'environmental care work'. See MacGregor et al., 2022. Available at <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/research-publications/caring-in-a-changing-climate/>

<sup>14</sup> Forestry itself, a sub-sector of agriculture, is a vital source of food, fuel, construction materials and medicine, all of which are key to meet people's basic needs and generate employment and cash income for many rural households across Asia (FAO, 2016).

forests, they cannot combine childcare with their activities in forestry, so the responsibility for childcare is shifted to other women in the family and often children (UN Women, 2020a).

Changes in climate or availability of natural resources due to aridity, drought, flooding, deforestation and desertification also impact the availability of firewood and water, thereby directly increasing women’s time and effort in accessing these resources (ESCAP, 2021a). Figure 1 shows the time spent fetching water for women and girls, and men and boys in houses without water on their premises in Asia and the Pacific.

**Figure 1: Proportion of persons in charge of fetching water and the distance in minutes to a water source in selected Asia-Pacific countries**



Source: UN Women 2022c, based on UN Women analyses carried out using data from Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and DHS data. Data for all the countries included is from 2000 and onwards.

Across the region, women are disproportionately responsible for water collection. According to figure 1, they spend on average between 5 and 20 minutes per trip to the nearest water source. In Bhutan and Lao’s People’s Democratic Republic, women spend almost 20 minutes, while men spend 10 minutes.

Natural hazards and ongoing climatic changes intensify women’s pre-existing vulnerabilities because of their higher dependence on natural resources for their livelihoods and their higher responsibilities in unpaid care and domestic work. For instance, changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change create more constraints in access to clean fuels for women, who are typically in charge of cooking and spend more time indoors (UN Women, 2023b). According to the latest available data, from 2015, in Myanmar, 15 and 28 per cent of women aged 18–49, respectively, lack access to clean fuels during high and low rainfall, while in Bangladesh, the respective figures are 82 and 93 per cent (UN Women, 2022d). A priority remains ensuring that the most vulnerable are at the centre of mitigation and adaptation measures in climate policies and action plans.

Context-specificity of gender vulnerabilities, such as unpaid care and domestic work burdens, is key to address and redress the significant negative impacts of climate change in the daily lives of





women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and gender minorities. The improvement of climate mitigation and adaptation measures requires targeted and gender-responsive climate adaptation planning and interventions that take into account the types of paid and unpaid work women do and how it affects their livelihoods and well-being in the face of climate crises. Furthermore, investing in gender-responsive climate action and gender equality in the promotion of green jobs have the potential to boost climate-resilient livelihoods and accelerate sustainable development in the region (ILO, 2015).

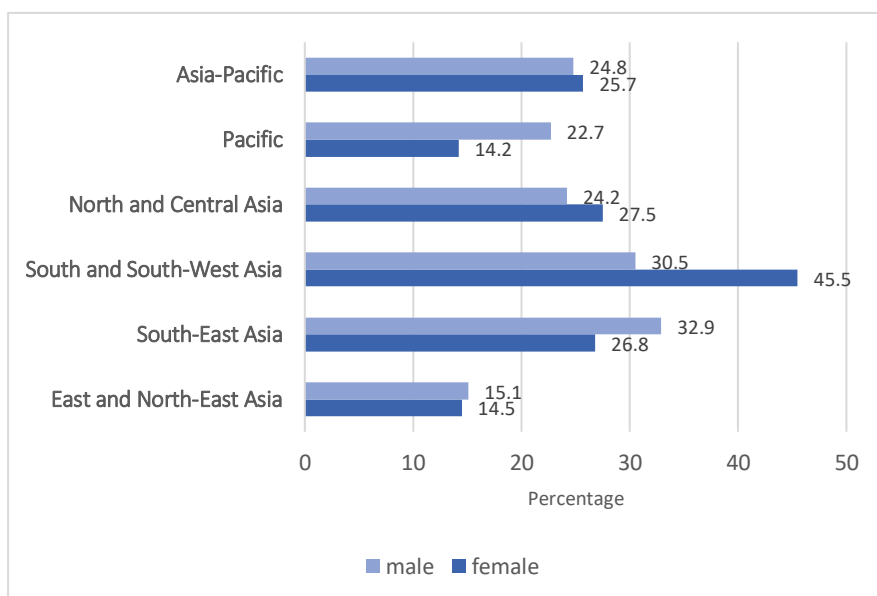
Climate change and climate-related disasters have increased disaster displacement in Asia and the Pacific, putting millions of people in danger as well as jeopardizing their livelihoods. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), people in Asia and the Pacific were displaced more than 225 million times due to disasters triggered by natural hazards from 2010 to 2021 (ADB and IDMC, 2022). In addition to posing a direct threat to people's lives, disasters expose women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities to other risks, acute in displacement contexts. In Asia and the Pacific, the destruction of infrastructure, such as schools and property, puts education in peril by forcing people to cross borders, resulting in neither legal residency nor the right to education (UNESCO, 2023). In 2022, the severe flood in Pakistan left as much as 10 per cent of the older population living without family support after their relatives fled (ADB and IDMC, 2022). Displacement also increases the risks gender minorities face. Moreover, facilities such as refugee camps are often planned or designed without taking gender sensitivity into account, leading to a binary division of services within refugee settlements. This division is evident in sleeping arrangements and sanitation facilities, which do not accommodate the needs of non-binary individuals. Additionally, camp security is often provided by only-male police surveillance with no referral system to report cases of violence or abuse (OXFAM, 2018).

## **2.2. Gender implications of climate change in the employment sector**

Women in Asia and the Pacific bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, which is intrinsically linked to their paid and unpaid work in agriculture and fisheries, to fulfil their households' food consumption. With food crises and climate change affecting millions of people in Asia and the Pacific, women's roles in the agricultural sector as producers, processors and traders have been severely affected, and securing food remains a challenge.

While there is still insufficient data on women's employment in agriculture and fisheries (figure 2), women's contribution to food security as producers in the formal and informal sector, and as household food providers is critical in the region. During periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women, as agricultural workers and primary procurers, work harder to secure income and resources for their families. The increase in women's labour force participation in agriculture is known as the 'feminization of agriculture' and is associated with a range of factors such as rural transformation, economic development, male labour outmigration, the increased number of female-headed households and the rise in labour-intensive agriculture (Mukhamedova and Wegerich, 2018; Najjar et al. 2022). Women are affected more severely than men by extreme weather because they continue working, for example, during heat events, especially given their lack of alternative coping strategies to earn money and ensure food (United Nations, 2022).

**Figure 2: Female and male employment in agriculture, 2019<sup>15</sup>**



Source: Based on latest available data from ILOSTAT, 2019.

Note: The available data for the Pacific subregion are based only on 10 out of 21 countries (namely: Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papa New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu).

In the fishing sector, which provides work for more than 22 million people and contributes to food security and nutrition for more than 4 billion people in the region,<sup>16</sup> the role of women is particularly significant. This is especially so where livelihood options are limited and women's wage work in industrial fishing (when traditional fishing is undermined by competition) sustains families and communities (UN Women, 2020b). In Thailand, the fishing and seafood industry relies heavily on (women) migrant workers, with most coming from neighbouring countries (USAID, 2021). Fish scarcity and migration of fish species due to climate change often leads to women workers in the fishing sector to being edged out of the fish trade both by local men and by migrants looking for survival options in the sector (UN Women, 2020b).

The disruptive effects of a changing climate, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are particularly acute for the most vulnerable workers, including rural workers, essentially workers from lower-income countries in the region (ILO, 2020c). In the Pacific, women and girls are affected the most when traditional crops begin to fail, as they are responsible for the majority of agricultural production; this increases their poverty and social inequalities that affect them.<sup>17</sup> Indigenous women, who are among the poorest groups in Asia and the Pacific, and tend to live in geographical regions at greater risks of climate variabilities, such as high mountains, face loss of land, territory

<sup>15</sup> The employed are defined as persons of working age engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. The agriculture sector consists of activities in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing in accordance with the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) of All Economic Activities (ILOSTAT data).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.rti.org/brochures/gender-equality-and-inclusion-fisheries-sector-asia>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.undp.org/pacific/news/international-womens-day-2021-women-and-climate-security-pacific>





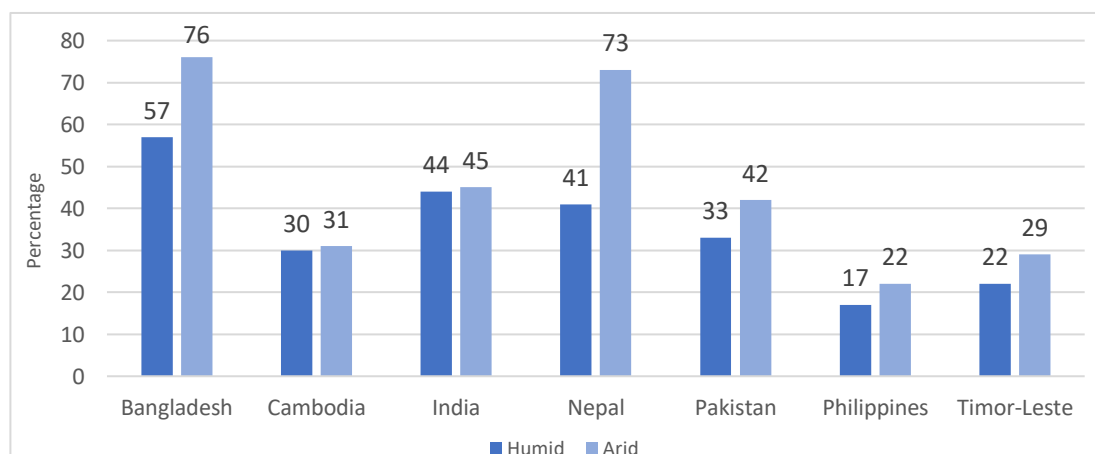
and natural resources when disasters occur. However socioeconomic factors also play a role. For example, women in India involved in fishing-related work with medium to high levels of wealth, and with wider social networks, have greater adaptive capacity to seasonal stresses than those of lower wealth or with weaker social networks (FAO, 2023).

Thus, when gender intersects with characteristics such as age, ethnicity, indigenous status, disability, migration and socioeconomic status, and these layered characteristics among workers are analysed, it is possible to observe a more complex range of impacts from climate change on women’s employment, as well as how they cope with it (ILO, 2017). Furthermore, to promote a gender lens in climate action, it is key to enhance traditional knowledge of fishing and agriculture. Gender mainstreaming in climate action requires the inclusion of best sustainable practices, such as spreading knowledge and technology that guarantee and strengthen the contribution of artisanal fisheries and agriculture to food security in climate crises contexts. Excluding the inputs of women and girls denies their agency and results in less robust and equitable climate change programmes, as well as compromised adaptation plans.

### 2.3. Gender implications of climate change on well-being

Changes in weather patterns, such as variations in temperature, precipitation, relative humidity and bodies of water, among others, are associated with child marriage, adolescent births, intimate partner violence, and restricted access to water and clean fuels, among others (UN Women, 2023a). Figure 3<sup>18</sup> highlights selected countries in Asia and the Pacific where arid areas, relative to humid ones, as well as high food prices and economic pressures during dry periods, increase child marriage where the practice is culturally accepted (UN Women, 2023b). Families turn to child marriage to cope with lower agricultural yields, especially when they live in arid areas and locations with frequent droughts (UN Women, 2023b).

**Figure 3: Percentage of women aged 18–49 married before age 18, by aridity index<sup>19</sup>**



Source: Based on UN Women calculation on DHS data and geospatial data from DHS Geocovariates from 2015 (UN Women, 2023b).

<sup>18</sup> The data presented in figure 3 are from a 2023 UN Women publication. Available at <https://data.unwomen.org/features/why-climate-change-matters-women>

<sup>19</sup> A measure of dryness of the climate at a given location. “Arid”, as opposed to “humid”, implies that the climate lacks effective, life-promoting moisture.



An increase in gender-based violence was also documented after the 2018 floods in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, linked to family separations, water and electricity scarcity, the collapse of community protection systems, and overcrowding and lack of security personnel in camps (Government of Lao PDR, 2018). In Myanmar, 2023 Cyclone Mocha also increased gender-based violence and limited health-care access for pregnant women due to damage to hospitals, lack of electricity and destruction of shelters.<sup>20</sup> Yet, the specific needs of women and girls, and the risks they face, including gender-based violence and concerning sexual and reproductive health, are rarely prioritized in climate action.

In countries in Asia and the Pacific where gender inequalities are pervasive, the percentage of women and girls, indigenous communities, gender minorities and persons with disabilities who experience gender-based violence is considerably high. Displaced women and girls are also often at greater risk of neglect, abuse and violence due to sexual violence in emergency shelters, tents or camps. Poor housing conditions with no infrastructure for privacy, as well as sudden breakdown of family and community structures, have been reported to be among the main causes of gender-based violence during emergencies (Desai and Mandal, 2021). Children and youth also face particular threats that put their security, education and well-being at risk. Overcrowded shelters and lack of access to clean water and sanitation spread diseases to which children and youth are especially vulnerable. For older persons, climate-related disasters put them at risk of being left behind, particularly if they have a disability.

The mental health and sense of security of displaced women are more adversely affected than those of displaced men. Women’s biggest concern of securing food, combined with scarcity of and competition over natural resources, such as firewood, water and grazing land, can lead to conflicts within households and communities, which affect their overall well-being. The “mental load” of climate change and the additional stress women take on in considering a different future for their families in climate crises has created a disproportionate burden for women (CARE, 2023). Box 1 notes some of the specific challenges faced by gender minorities due to sexual abuse, harassment and lack of inclusive strategies in humanitarian crisis response in disaster settings.

**Box 1: Gender minorities face different challenges in disasters settings**

In disaster settings, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and intersectional vulnerabilities are aggravated, especially for lesbian and bisexual women, who frequently suffer from harassment and rape. UN Women interviewed Matcha Phorn-in, Executive Director of the civil society organization “Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon” and who works with young people from marginalized communities in disaster-prone Thai villages at the border with Myanmar. Phorn-in stated that during disasters in northern Thailand, lesbian, bisexual and queer women are often targets of both physical and verbal violence.

In her words, *“if you are a woman and have a husband and children, you get access to relief structures as a family. But, if you are a lesbian couple, you do not get recognized as a family, and are deprived from such assistance”*.

Source: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/7/take-five-matcha-phorn-in>

<sup>20</sup> <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2023/05/vulnerable-women-and-girls-face-compounded-crises-after-cyclone-mocha>



Many indigenous people depend on the ecosystems around them for livelihoods. When the environment changes and they are forced to leave their homes and cities due to extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires and cyclones, this affects not only their livelihoods but their traditional knowledge and spiritual connections to their languages and cultures (ADB and IDMC, 2022).

An intersectional approach to gender and climate change provides broader information about the gender outcomes of climate change and climate-related disasters. It is important to recognize that climate change has enormous consequences for the lives of women and girls, as well as gender minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous women. Hence to reduce climate change risks, it is essential to develop effective gender-specific relief and mitigation climate-disaster policies, build resilient communities based on their own climate knowledge, and promote climate mitigation and adaptation measures that benefit all and leave no one behind.





### 3. The role of gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action

In Asia and the Pacific, a region that is one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the transition to resilient, net-zero and sustainable green and blue economies requires addressing gender and social inequalities. Yet, disaster responses and climate action fail to include gender-specific responses in their strategies. Following the analysis in section 2, this section focuses on the critical role of gender-responsive climate action by examining solely two areas of analysis: care inequalities and climate action (livelihoods), and unequal participation and access to resources in agrifood systems (sectoral). Both also address some of the most critical aspects of women's well-being risks due to climate-related disasters.

The aim of this section is to use gender-specific analysis to advocate for strengthening the integration of gender-considerations in climate action that enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women. In doing so, this section underscores gender-responsive climate action as an important lever to achieve sustainable development outcomes, regional climate goals and a sustainable just transition that leaves no one behind.

#### 3.1. Care inequalities and climate action

Climate change exacerbates women's intersectional vulnerabilities and underlines care as foundational during socioeconomic crises. It also intensifies the work involved in caring for people, plants, animals and places, while the availability and quality of public services are reduced and/or often terminated. These impacts are particularly severe concerning rural livelihoods in low-income countries in Asia and the Pacific. Hence, a better understanding of the interrelationships between climate change and women's care and unpaid domestic work can help redress the design of care policies to more effectively respond to the needs of a diverse set of women and girls, including those who are indigenous, disabled, migrants and domestic workers. When climate change-related disasters hit, women tend to remain unemployed for longer periods than men and are responsible for looking after family members (including children and those who are injured), securing food and ensuring that their homes are livable. Yet, there is a lack of attention by policymakers and other stakeholders to the intersections between climate change and care inequalities when climate-related disasters occur.

Thus, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies require care-sensitive policy frameworks, such as the 5R framework<sup>21</sup> for gender transformative interventions, that recognize, reduce and redistribute care work, as well as promote the representation and reward of unpaid care workers in the region. Recognizing and valuing care work supports a counter-narrative to tackle gender inequalities without considering women as poor, vulnerable victims of climate change. Reducing and redistributing care work offers a basis to remove gender inequalities in households and societies and challenges the idea that care work is a free resource provided by women and girls. It proposes that institutions and society consider care work as fundamental for the well-being of diverse people of all ages, and, therefore, as a common and collective necessity that is foundational for our economies and societies rather than being the responsibility of women alone. Increased

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<sup>21</sup> Also known as the ILO "5R Framework for Decent Care Work".  
[https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_633135/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_633135/lang--en/index.htm)





acknowledgment of care work in policy development is important to create better strategies to adapt to and mitigate climate-related changes. However, the role of carers, in light of rising impacts of climate change, cannot be sustained without reducing and redistributing the care work of women and girls, as well as enhancing the resilience of care systems (UN Women, 2022a).

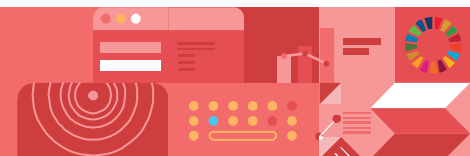
Additionally, care-sensitive policies and interventions are those that promote the effective realization of SDG 5.4, which calls for “recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate”. To make climate policies and strategies more care-responsive, as seen in table 1, three main types of care work can be differentiated: direct care work, indirect care work and environmental care work (MacGregor et al., 2022).

**Table 1: Examples of climate-related impacts on unpaid care and domestic work**

<b>Climate-related impact</b>	<b>Direct care work</b>	<b>Indirect care work</b>	<b>Environmental care work</b>
Food insecurity	Caregivers need to ration food.  Increased care burden due to malnourished children.	Acquiring food becomes difficult and requires extra time.  Cooking also becomes more difficult in post-disaster contexts due to lack of energy and fuel shortages.	Changes in the ecosystem increase the time to find fodder for animals.
Water scarcity	Rationing water and delegating water collection to children increases care burden.  Maintaining hygiene for women menstruating and lactating as well as caring for newborn children requires more time due to water scarcity.	Travelling longer distances to fetch water.  Coping with contaminated water intensifies the time women spend purifying water.  Maintaining hygiene in households becomes more difficult.	Increases in pests and diseases in livestock makes it harder to keep plants and animals alive.  Increases in time spent finding sources of water to maintain livestock and crops.

Source: Adapted from MacGregor et al., 2022

The above examples show how care work increases due to climate-related impacts that exacerbate food insecurity and water scarcity. Direct care work refers to care for people such as family members, including children. Indirect care work refers to work in households such as cleaning and washing clothes. Environmental care work refers to work beyond the private household such as caring for animals and crops to maintain livelihoods after disasters. For instance, extreme weather events add additional direct caring responsibilities to members of the family if primary caregivers are injured; they also intensify indirect care work if there is a loss of health infrastructure. In addition, they increase environmental care work if faltering crops and sick animals affect the amount of family work. Moreover, the impacts of climate change, predominant in rural livelihoods across Asia and the Pacific, are intensified by the lack of public services and infrastructure to cope with food insecurity, water scarcity, energy and fuel shortages, and physical health problems.



### 3.1.1. Care-specific mitigation and adaptation strategies

Taking into account the 5R Framework and care-specific impacts due to climate change and climate-related disasters can lead to better care-responsive climate interventions. It is key to engage women, gender minorities and other vulnerable groups in leadership and climate decision-making and promote training opportunities to cope with climate-related disasters. However, a lack of gender-specific analysis of care in policymaking can miss the implications of a disproportionate division of care work and add more responsibilities to an already unfair distribution of daily activities (Resurrección et al., 2019). For example, women’s capacity to access agro-meteorological advisories and weather and climate information is enhanced when services and information sources are located within the village, where women’s childcare and household responsibilities tend to take place (Gumuccio et al., 2020).

To this end, collaboration across different types of organizations to share good practices is crucial for climate adaptation in Asia and the Pacific. Table 2 shows examples from the region that underscore care-responsive climate interventions and are noteworthy to highlight how effective gender-responsive climate strategies can enhance gender equality and empower women.

**Table 2: Examples of care-specific initiatives in India and Tajikistan**

Country/project	Care-specific initiative
<p>India (East Godavari)</p> <p>Climate-Smart Agriculture Project</p> <p>A group of non-government organizations in India, in collaboration with FAO</p>	<p>The project supported gender-sensitive sustainable adaptation practices to ensure climate justice.</p> <p>It engaged local communities and recognized Adivasi women’s traditional knowledge of herbal remedies, learned through care for chickens, to initiate disease prevention and bio-diversity conservation strategies. This led to increased livelihood security and community empowerment of Adivasi women in East Godavari.</p> <p>Despite livestock care being perceived as a male occupation, women not only took informed, technically-sound decisions related to livestock management but also lobbied government departments to control diseases at the village level.</p> <p><a href="https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/good_practices_integrating_3.26.19.pdf">https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/good_practices_integrating_3.26.19.pdf</a></p>
<p>Tajikistan</p> <p>“Little Earth” Project</p> <p>Environmental non-profit organization</p>	<p>This implemented practical environmental projects in remote mountain areas of Tajikistan, where people faced energy crises.</p> <p>It taught rural women about efficient use of natural resources and energy, and equipped them with solar kitchens, energy-efficient stoves, solar lanterns and pressure cookers to free up their time and energy for self-development.</p> <p>By relying on ecological options, women brought benefits to their communities by reducing the destruction of vegetation and restoring the natural resources on which they depended.</p> <p><a href="https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/04/in-the-words-of-natalia-idrisova">https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/04/in-the-words-of-natalia-idrisova</a></p>

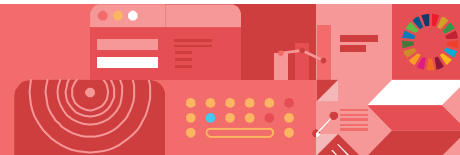


Context-specificity of gender inequalities in unpaid care and domestic work is key to address the significant negative impacts of climate change in the daily lives of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and gender minorities. Additionally, climate action initiatives can be gender transformative by engaging men to reconsider gender norms through sharing unpaid care and domestic work as a way to increase resilience to climate change and food security. For example, Oxfam’s climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programme in the Philippines reduces barriers to women’s and girls’ leadership and participation through implementing activities which aim to shift power relations between men and women and reduce the disproportionate care responsibilities that fall on women (Oxfam, 2017).

The improvement of climate mitigation and adaptation measures requires targeted and gendered climate adaptation planning, interventions and strategies that tackle the types of paid work and unpaid work women and men do, and foster the foundational role of care for the livelihoods of their communities in climate crises. The promotion of equal access, availability, reliability and affordability of renewable energy, as well as the transition to clean fuels for all, is a critical driver for unlocking a fairer and more equitable way of life that builds resilience in households and communities. A just transition to low-carbon and sustainable economies with inclusive climate action plays a key role in transforming gender norms and gender inequalities through the promotion of investments towards care-related infrastructure and services that take into account gender-specific needs.







## 3.2. Gender disparities in agrifood systems and gender-responsive climate action

Globally, women represent approximately 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force and in some Asian countries, this percentage is much higher.<sup>22</sup> However, official statistical reports do not include women's unpaid employment in the sector; women work as caretakers or small agricultural producers within their homes. For instance, according to a study by ADB, 69 per cent of Tajik women are officially employed in agriculture, although the figure could be as high as 80 per cent if wage or daily workers are included (ADB, 2020).

Women also play a critical role in every link of the value chain in small-scale fisheries in Asia and the Pacific. This occurs not only in processing and marketing fish and other fishery products, but also in shore-based fishing and gleaning of invertebrates and other aquatic species in intertidal zones, rivers and shallow waters (FAO, 2015a). Due to a narrow definition of fishing based on fish capture by boat and vessel, which is usually performed by men, women's work in fisheries has been unrecognized and unvalued.<sup>23</sup>

The absence of a gender-sensitive perspective in agriculture and fisheries has been often systematically justified by community members and policymakers because women's work in these sectors is commonly considered an extension of domestic work rather than productive labour (Koralagama, Gupta and Pouw, 2017). Equal access to technologies and complementary resources, such as those that help develop green skills, for men and women working in agriculture and the fisheries sector serves to accelerate the reduction of gender gaps and food insecurity. Yet, laws and informal customs and practices reinforce gender inequalities in land ownership, access to credit and technology, and capacity training that serve to cope with climate crises and disaster risks. They also continue to undermine women's abilities to prevent and adapt to climate-related disasters, as well as limit women's access to the skills required to transition into green jobs in these sectors.

This subsection explores these inequalities and notes that strategies for climate action require challenging practices that are not discriminatory against women and other vulnerable groups.

### 3.2.1. Unequal access to and ownership over resources and land

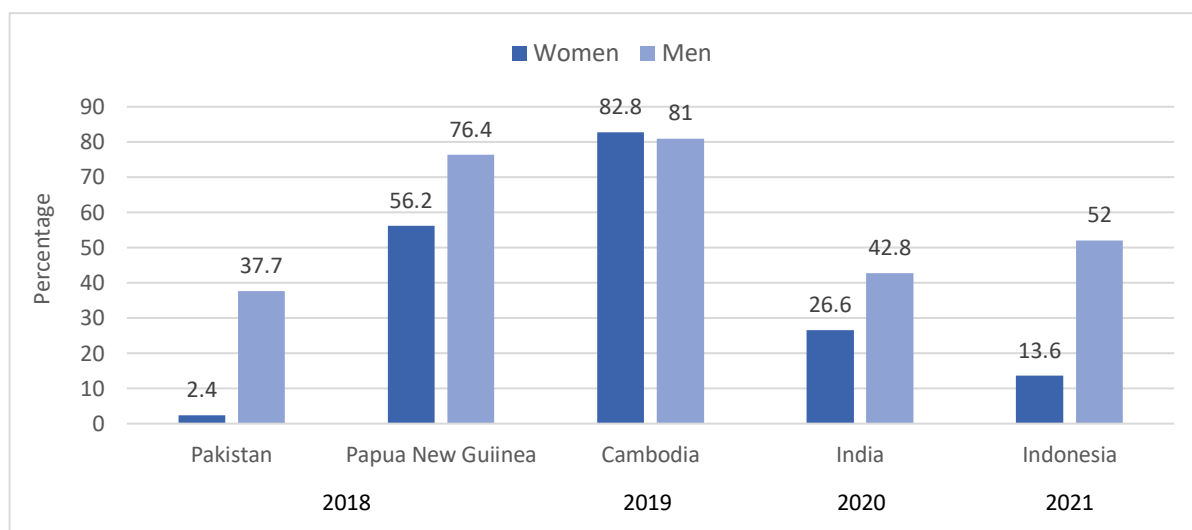
In Asia and the Pacific, women engaged in agriculture often have less access to productive resources or are landholders compared to men (figure 4). Although Cambodia has achieved great progress in terms of equal ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, in Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, India and Indonesia the differences are considerable. As seen below, the larger differences between men and women's land ownership are in Pakistan and Indonesia. According to the latest data available from 2018 for Pakistan, only 2.4 per cent of women have ownership rights over agricultural land, in contrast to 37.7 per cent of men. In Indonesia, where data from 2021 is available, the gender gap is more pronounced, with the respective figures being 13.6 per cent for women and 52 per cent for men. Women's lack of assets and higher likelihoods to engage in informal employment greatly reduce their capacity to cope with the effects of climate change and other crises.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://blogs.adb.org/blog/how-supporting-women-farmers-can-ease-asias-food-security-crisis>

<sup>23</sup> The ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) does not cover shore-based fishing and fish workers.

**Figure 4: Percentage of agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex, in all Asia-Pacific countries with available data from 2018 to 2021<sup>24</sup>**



Source: UN ESCAP SDG Gateway Asia-Pacific Database, latest data available.<sup>25</sup>

Where laws fail to safeguard women’s inheritance rights, the loss of land and productive assets owned by deceased family members due to disasters puts women at further risk of poverty and lost livelihoods (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022). Furthermore, land laws and informal customs and practices reinforce gender inequalities in land ownership and control, and represent major constraints for female farmers and their adaptive capacities.

### 3.2.1.1. Enhancing gender-strategies for effective land ownership and property rights

As mitigation and adaptation programmes and policies have gained relevance due to climate change and the demands on food production, agricultural livelihoods also need to adapt to a more sustainable and effective risk-reduction approach. SDG Indicator 5.a.2<sup>26</sup> measures the proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary laws) guarantees women’s equal rights to own and/or control land. Promoting SDG 5.a.2 not only enhances gender equality and women’s empowerment in agriculture but leads to better food security and nutrition at the household level. It also results in resilient, climate-smart and sustainable food systems overall (United Nations, 2021).

In the fishery sector, the right of access to fish and related post-harvest activities among fishing communities in marine and inland fishing is generally assured by customary practices and rights. The *Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines* define the protection of tenure as based on the recognition of customary rights of fishing communities, and appropriate corrective measures are recommended

<sup>24</sup> The countries shown in figure 4 are the only ones in Asia and the Pacific with available data in recent years. From 2018 to 2021 there is only available data for Pakistan and Papa New Guinea (2018), Cambodia (2019), India (2020) and Indonesia (2021) as shown in figure 4.

<sup>25</sup> [https://dataexplorer.unescap.org/vis?tm=agriculture&pg=0&df\[ds\]=ds-demo-design&df\[id\]=THEME\\_Dataflow&df\[ag\]=ESCAP&df\[vs\]=2.6&pd=2015%2C2023&dq=.SEC\\_RIGHT\\_AGR\\_LAND..A&ly\[rs\]=SERIES&ly\[rw\]=REF\\_AREA&ly\[cl\]=TIME\\_PERIOD&hc\[Indicators%20by%20Theme\]=&snb=2](https://dataexplorer.unescap.org/vis?tm=agriculture&pg=0&df[ds]=ds-demo-design&df[id]=THEME_Dataflow&df[ag]=ESCAP&df[vs]=2.6&pd=2015%2C2023&dq=.SEC_RIGHT_AGR_LAND..A&ly[rs]=SERIES&ly[rw]=REF_AREA&ly[cl]=TIME_PERIOD&hc[Indicators%20by%20Theme]=&snb=2)

<sup>26</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-0a-02.pdf>

where these rights discriminate against women (box 2). The guidelines also recommend that when the rights of fishing communities come into conflict with other competing sectors, States should proactively protect fishing community rights. Nevertheless, more still needs to be done regarding the tenure rights of women, where many challenges remain, despite existing guidelines.

**Box 2: Protecting the tenure rights of women**

The *Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security* include gender equality as one of their ten implementation principles. Reliable and safe mechanisms, such as publicly-maintained rights registries and records, as well as information and research services, are crucial for the rebuilding of lives and livelihoods in disaster contexts. Yet, even where government policy has tried to specifically address issues of small-scale fisheries, measures are often not sufficiently gender-sensitive and overlook the rights of women fishers.

Sources: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/l4356EN>; <https://www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>

Women’s awareness of their property rights and institutional support, including that based on norms and laws governing land ownership, are crucial to enhance their empowerment in decision-making. This includes them playing an essential role in climate action, as well as their equal representation in adaptation and mitigation plans. Joint titling of land for married couples and those in domestic partnerships allows mainly women to have a greater say in important decisions pertaining to the household’s land. It also ensures equal rights in the event of conflict and serves to enhance access to credit for investments. However, land rights often lack considerations of intersecting forms of discrimination depending on sex, gender identity, age, indigenous status and geographic location (OHCHR and UN Women, 2020).

In this regard, it is important to note that the vulnerability of groups of people to the impacts of climate change is inextricably linked to adaptive capacities (FAO, 2023). Moreover, the ways in which women, men and households cope with climate shocks, for example by reducing food consumption, selling assets, migrating or adjusting labour allocation, have important implications for their well-being and future coping strategies to respond to climate change (Erman et al., 2021; Neumayer and Plümper, 2007). The Wao Local Government Unit in the Philippines provides a good example of how to promote equal participation in natural resource management through joint land stewardship between spouses (table 3).

**Table 3: Example of joint land stewardship between spouses in the Philippines**

Country/Project	Gender-specific initiative
The Philippines  Wao Local Government Unit, with support from the USAID-funded Philippine Environmental	Through their efforts, women’s knowledge of, and roles in, forest conservation and management have become recognized, resulting in their inclusion as stewardship contract holders.  In the case of married holders, both spouses are asked to sign the stewardship agreement.



Governance Programme	Enhanced joint decision-making on utilization and management of business transactions concerning land and forest resources, which improved gender relations in the area. <a href="https://redd.unfccc.int/uploads/2234_24_philippines_gender_and_redd_report_sm.pdf">https://redd.unfccc.int/uploads/2234_24_philippines_gender_and_redd_report_sm.pdf</a>
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Single women working as small farmers face serious challenges and are an invisible population in natural resource management programmes, as well as concerning land and property rights. Moreover, gender minorities and indigenous women’s land ownership and property rights are compromised when they are excluded from meaningful participation in climate decision-making and mitigation measures.

### 3.2.2. Women’s limited access to technologies

The enhancement of women’s knowledge and capacities in sustainable management and leadership benefits from the promotion of laws and the recognition of equal rights of women to own and inherit land. The same is so regarding the development of better infrastructure and sustainable measures to manage and protect the environment. For instance, gender inequalities in access to and management of water resources have wide-reaching implications on girls’ education, women’s livelihoods and empowerment, and the health and nutrition of their households. Access to agricultural technologies is crucial for increasing agricultural productivity by enabling farmers to engage in higher-value chain work and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Yet, women in agricultural work have significantly less access than men to inputs, extension services, training, credit and mechanized equipment (FAO, 2023).

Gender inequalities are even more evident where social norms limit women’s access to technology and who will benefit from it. A large percentage of farmers now use electric tillers and other machinery that optimize processes in the agricultural sector. This revolution has not yet reached women, who are typically considered incapable of handling such machinery or of performing this kind of physical labour (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022). Consequently, access to new technology puts men in a better position to undertake commercial or higher-income agricultural activities. Such an imbalance means that women lose out in this sector.

In Nepal, due to prevailing social norms, male owners of irrigation equipment usually engage with male farmers. Thus, women having to manage the irrigation of farms after their husbands migrate have reported increased difficulties in renting pump equipment and tube wells because they have not had the necessary social networks and have felt uncomfortable negotiating with male owners (Sugden et al., 2014). In Pakistan, women have limited access to adequate agricultural resources, including agricultural technical knowledge, and a largely male-dominated workforce does not consider this to be a priority for women (Lamontagne-Godwin et al., 2018).

#### 3.2.2.1. Promoting mitigation and adaptation strategies through innovative practices and access to technologies

The lack of women farmers access to clean energy and technologies has negative effects on renewable energy policies and ability to attain regional climate goals (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022). It is, thus, urgent to place the differentiated need of energy end-users and access to technologies at the core of policies and implementation plans for a just transition from fossil fuels



to clean energy. However, in ASEAN countries, renewable energy transitions often focus on largely male-dominated sectors, such as commercial agriculture and more urban-based industry and construction, although the majority of people without electricity in these countries are in rural areas (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022). A successful gender-responsive energy transition in the short-, medium- and long-term requires affordable renewable energy for all. This presents opportunities to ensure that: non-renewable sources are not promoted in areas without electricity, greenhouse gas emission are reduced, sectoral and occupational segregation is not perpetuated, inclusive dialogue is established, and working conditions and social protection are enhanced (UN Women and UNIDO, 2023).

Women in Asia and the Pacific have little representation in energy sector leadership. The share of women on energy company boards across South-East Asia varies widely, from a low of 10.7 per cent in Thailand, to 11.3 per cent in Indonesia, 13.6 per cent in the Philippines, 18.4 per cent in Singapore, 28.6 per cent in Malaysia and 29.7 per cent in Viet Nam (ENERGIA, 2019). Women are also significantly underrepresented in policymaking positions (IRENA, 2019; ISPONRE, 2021).

Jointly implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and UN Women in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam, the EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies project<sup>27</sup> enables women to use renewable energy to build resilient livelihoods and support women-owned energy enterprises (table 4). It also demonstrates women’s critical roles in gender-responsive climate and DRR solutions. The project has supported three provinces in Viet Nam in adopting provincial action plans on “Renewable Energy and Women Entrepreneurship”, and two provinces in Cambodia in specifying renewable energy and women’s economic empowerment in their official investment plans.

**Table 4: EmPower project: Women for climate resilient societies**

Country	Gender-specific initiatives
Bangladesh	<p>The Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), leveraged by EmPower, serves as a focal point for discussions with key ministries to enhance gender-related climate change policies.</p> <p>Provided 60 women farmers with clean, cost-efficient solar energy.</p> <p><a href="https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/final_ccgap_rapid%20appraisal_bco_9-dec-clean-copy.pdf">https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/final_ccgap_rapid%20appraisal_bco_9-dec-clean-copy.pdf</a>;  <a href="https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/06/aid-activists-and-a-goat-farmer-tell-of-how-a-sweden-funded-project-has-changed-lives">https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/06/aid-activists-and-a-goat-farmer-tell-of-how-a-sweden-funded-project-has-changed-lives</a></p>
Cambodia	<p>Supported and implemented guidelines for gender mainstreaming in inclusive disaster management.</p> <p>Established provincial investment plans for renewable energy and women’s entrepreneurship in the provinces of Pursat and Takeo.</p> <p><a href="https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/assets/asiapacific/empower-journey/index.html">https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/assets/asiapacific/empower-journey/index.html</a></p>

<sup>27</sup> The project, implemented since 2018, is funded by the Government of Sweden. For more information about the project: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/assets/asiapacific/empower-journey/index.html>; <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/EmPower-Project-PhaseII-Brief2.pdf>

Viet Nam	<p>Renewable energy acts to build resilience for women and solar-powered technologies help women mushroom growers to recover from COVID-19.</p> <p>Helped indigenous women use solar drying systems to dry mushrooms, noodles and bamboo for their food production businesses, which served to produce better quality crops and triple their production within a year.</p> <p><a href="https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/op-ed/2022/11/ramp-up-investment-to-support-asia-pacific-women-to-overcome-climate-disasters">https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/op-ed/2022/11/ramp-up-investment-to-support-asia-pacific-women-to-overcome-climate-disasters</a></p>
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### 3.2.3. Knowledge and capacity-building

Social, cultural and economic dimensions of inequality inhibit women from managing risks and shocks, and limit their adaptive capacity to climate change (CARE, 2020; ESCAP, 2017, 2021c; FAO, 2023; UN Women, 2021e). For instance, in Cambodia, a study found that an outbreak of disease after a flood kept women at home caring for the sick, instead of earning income and building their own resilience (Uniacke, 2018). Furthermore, the channels through which women and men get information differ. In Nepal, a study showed that, while the significant majority of men (71 per cent) received early warning information through a formal source, such as a government or nongovernmental organization, for women, the majority (albeit at 51 per cent) received their information through informal social sources, such as word of mouth from community or family members (Brown et al., 2019). Gaps in access to vital resources such as information and access to the Internet also remain sources of gender inequalities (box 3), including in disaster settings. Indigenous women have limited access to early warning climate and weather services, and their environmental knowledge is often missing in mitigation and adaptation plans.

#### Box 3: Gender gaps in mobile Internet use in rural areas

According to data from the Mobile Gender Gap Report 2022, rural women are less likely to own a mobile phone than rural men, with Pakistan having the highest rural gender gap in mobile-phone ownership at 35 per cent. Rural populations are more likely than urban ones to cite literacy and skills as the most important barrier to mobile Internet use. Furthermore, people living in rural areas that are sparsely populated, remote or without access to electricity are less likely to have access to a mobile broadband network than those living in urban areas. Among the rural populations of the countries in the aforementioned report's sample, Bangladesh and Pakistan have the highest gender gaps (55 per cent) in mobile Internet use.

Source: <https://www.gsma.com/r/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2022.pdf>

Improving community awareness, in particular through women's capacity-building using both traditional and modern scientific knowledge, helps to inform community-level disaster risk management and empowers women to participate. Enhancing knowledge of disasters also increases the likelihood that early warnings will be acted upon when received.<sup>28</sup> Additionally, building equal capacity to recover from climate shocks serves to enhance adaptation, resilience

<sup>28</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/bulletin/gender-equality-context-of-multi-hazard-early-warning-systems-and-disaster-risk>



and mitigation if the channels of knowledge and capacity-building are diversified and the information is delivered considering the accessibility of women and minority groups (WMO, 2019).

Yet, women’s ability to attend and benefit from training sessions is often restricted due to their literacy levels, work burdens and/or asymmetric power relations (FAO, 2023). Thus, the availability of cleaner energy sources and smart technology cannot automatically lead to more equitable outcomes in climate change adaptation if existing power hierarchies and social norms continue to impact the user’s ability to benefit from these technologies and programmes (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022).

### 3.2.3.1. Enhancing gender equality in adaptation, resilience and mitigation in knowledge and capacity-building

To promote equal knowledge of coping mechanisms and access to disaster preparedness in vulnerable areas in Asia and the Pacific, some initiatives have taken into consideration gender-responsive actions to diversify the channels of delivering information and enhance adaptation and resilience during climate crises. A good example is Fiji’s Women’s Weather Watch; this consists of around 350 empowered Fijian women all connected by a mobile network. The programme started in 2009, following Cyclone Mick, because women’s communities were excluding them from the decision-making process despite their selfless efforts to protect their homes. To raise awareness and promote informed knowledge among women, FemLINK interviews women all over Fiji about their needs and concerns during crises and broadcasts these interviews to raise awareness and empower more women to take climate action (table 5).<sup>29</sup>


**Table 5: Engaging women in sharing information on disasters and climate change in Fiji**

Country/Project	Gender-specific initiative
Fiji  Women’s Weather Watch (WWW) FemLINKPacific	Ensures that information on weather patterns reaches individuals in remote communities , including women.  Promotes that evacuation strategies are gender-inclusive and that women are involved in disaster preparedness, management and response.  Began as a simple SMS update for a core group of rural women leaders across Fiji, today is an inter-operable information-communications platform (via radio and mobile devices) that provides a network of rural women leaders with weather updates and preparedness information, as well as a platform to document their lived realities through disasters and climate change.  <a href="https://actionaid.org.au/articles/innovation-station-womens-weather-watch-fiji/">https://actionaid.org.au/articles/innovation-station-womens-weather-watch-fiji/</a>

Improving early warning and weather information effectiveness has the potential to save lives and assets, and avoid significant negative impacts related to climate variability and weather patterns (WMO, 2019). The promotion of women’s knowledge and capacity-building in climate action can also contribute to ensuring that gender dimensions are systematically integrated into the development of programmes, national action plans and climate-smart technologies. Attaining equal gender capacity to recover from climate shocks serves to enhance adaptation, resilience and

<sup>29</sup> <https://borgenproject.org/tag/womens-weather-watch-program/>





mitigation. Box 4 highlights these three core principles as part of promoting a gender-lens in Climate Smart Agriculture.

#### **Box 4: Gender in Climate Smart Agriculture**

FAO has developed Gender and Climate Smart Agriculture as Module 18 of the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook. The FAO approach to Climate Smart Agriculture integrates the economic, social and environmental aspects of agricultural production by working at three levels:

1. *Adaptation* – to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes by reducing vulnerability to climate change.
2. *Resilience* – to build capacity to recover from climate shocks.
3. *Mitigation* – to reduce and remove greenhouse gases, where possible.

Source: <https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/enabling-frameworks/module-c6-gender/c6-overview/en/>

These three core principles serve to recognize that climate change affects us all, albeit differently, and that not everyone has the same capacity training to adapt to climate-related disasters and risks. A gender-responsive approach in Climate Smart Agriculture: helps identify and address the different constraints faced by various vulnerable groups; targets their specific needs and interests; and ensures that women, men, girls and boys can benefit equally from climate-smart interventions, and that the outcomes of these interventions will be sustainable (FAO, 2017).

While disaster resilience is a key priority in the region, women in South-East Asia are significantly underrepresented in DRR decision-making roles and spaces (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022). This can result in governance systems that do not recognize the lived experiences of women and girls or address their needs and interests in the context of DRR. For instance, marginalized people who are highly vulnerable to disasters, including rural women and indigenous groups, have important knowledge and skills to predict, mitigate against and respond to natural hazards (ASEAN and UN Women, 2022). However, institutionalized DRR approaches often fail to integrate this knowledge.

As highlighted at the beginning of this section, women in Asia and the Pacific are significantly involved in the regions' agricultural and fishery sectors. Yet, gender norms and structural inequalities significantly limit their ability to adapt to climate change impacts and they are often excluded from decision-making and limited in their access to resources. For instance, the Bangladesh Department of Agricultural Extension<sup>30</sup> provides farmers with rural advisory and agricultural extension services. The aim is to educate farmers on the latest research and farming techniques to increase productivity. Yet, agricultural extension services in Bangladesh are staffed predominantly by men and the understanding of women's specific needs are not taken into account. Furthermore, agriculture is increasingly being mechanized, while social norms often prevent women from using such machinery (UNEP and UN Women, 2022).

Thus, despite the existence of policy frameworks in the region, the scarcity of gender-responsive capacity-building initiatives remain a challenge and often limit the extent to which women's

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.dae.gov.bd>



knowledge, needs and preferences are considered in DRR programmes, as well as energy transition and training. The capacity-building of government stakeholders on gender-responsive climate action also needs effective enhancement among ministries and government workers at all levels as a key to comprehensively improve and monitor gender integration in gender-mainstreaming action plans.





## 4. Gender mainstreaming in climate change strategies

After discussing more pressing gender inequalities exacerbated due to climate change and climate-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific in previous sections, this section focuses on regional good practices on mainstreaming gender in climate action. In doing so, the goal is to advocate for a whole-of-government climate action approach to ensure that holistic strategies are adopted and that gender intersectionality and gender-specific needs are strengthened, guaranteed and monitored at national and regional levels.

The climate targets set out in the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the SDGs serve as the foundation for comprehensive action plans that recognize the importance of integrating gender-responsive approaches in adaptation, capacity-building, and DRR initiatives. Strengthening gender mainstreaming is one of the key strategies to ensure more inclusive and impactful climate outcomes and enhance progress to fulfil regional carbon neutrality pledges.

This section focuses on gender mainstreaming in NDCs and NAPs in Asia and the Pacific. While NDCs ensure a country's high-level adaptation priorities, NAPs for climate change formulate and implement national medium- and long-term adaptation needs.<sup>31</sup> This section further calls for a gender lens and gender-responsive accounting to be included and implemented in NDCs and NAPs to expedite fulfilment of national and regional climate change goals and commitments.

### 4.1. The role of gender mainstreaming in climate action commitments in Asia and the Pacific

Including gender mainstreaming in climate ambition strategies, such as NDCs, climate action commitments and NAPs on climate change, is key to higher climate ambitions and the effective achievement of the SDGs in the region. The integration of gender equality and human rights-based approaches in climate action has the potential to deliver better social, economic and environmental outcomes, enhancing adaptive capacities and fulfilling rights, while safeguarding the needs of the most vulnerable (ESCAP et al., 2021). As underscored in sections 2 and 3, a gender lens on agricultural adaptation has the potential to explicitly accelerate the achievement of net zero emissions through climate-smart agriculture and resilient development.

To this end, the 2021 ESCAP report, in collaboration with UNEP, UN Women and the greenwerk, "Is 1.5 C within Reach for the Asia-Pacific Region?", cites four enabling factors, with gender mainstreaming as a key component in each to support and make climate ambitions possible (figure 5). Mainstreaming gender through the four enablers of climate action can serve to increase recognition that gender is of critical importance when it comes to pervasive green growth and effective policies that address gender inequalities, while leaving no one behind.

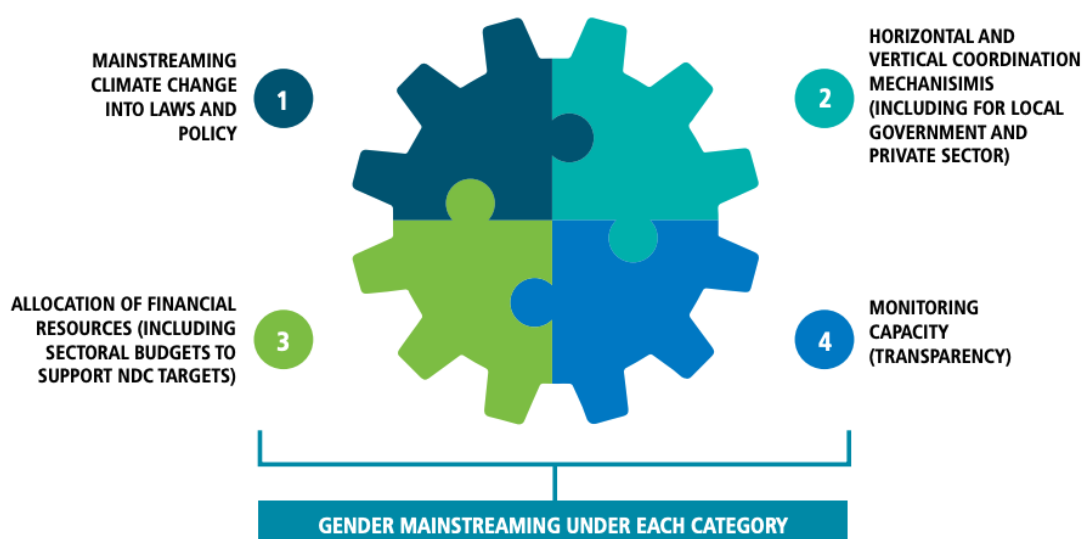
The attainment of gender mainstreaming through each of the above-mentioned enabling factors has been identified as crucial for a full energy transition to renewables, the elimination of fossil fuel use, the reduction of GHG emissions and the achievement of net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> by 2025 (ESCAP et al., 2021). Thus, delivering commitments to climate action requires that gender equality is central to climate policies, laws and strategies. In doing so, these enablers support long-term low emission

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<sup>31</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

development strategies, carbon neutrality pledges, further updates of the NDCs and the next cycle of review and stocktake of the NDCs, as well as their effective implementation (ESCAP et al., 2021).

**Figure 5: Gender mainstreaming through four enabling factors**



Source: ESCAP et al., 2021, p. 41.

Each of these four enabling factors and the gender integration element in each of them can be explained as follows:

1) *Mainstreaming climate change into laws and policies with a gender lens* — Addresses the relevance of mainstreaming NDC actions and gender equality into national climate plans, policies, and strategies to promote long-term structured climate action plans.

The increasing commitment to mainstreaming gender into climate action through NDCs, laws and strategies in Asia-Pacific countries has become evident, albeit to varying degrees. For instance, Fiji's NDC and climate-related policies identify links between gender equality and climate change, and promote gender-responsive climate action as a key policy pillar across both adaptation and mitigation strategies (ESCAP et al., 2021). Fiji also recognizes the importance of increasing the number of women in environmental decision-making and includes targets for gender balance in the NAP Steering Committee, as well as appointees to the National Ocean Policy Steering Committee (Republic of Fiji, 2019). Fiji's NDC also take appropriate steps to protect its social infrastructure against climate change, which includes prioritizing gender, disability, children and older person issues in climate action (Republic of Fiji, 2021). Viet Nam has also addressed climate change and gender in several national policies, while broadly mainstreaming gender into climate change policies. Viet Nam's National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change includes principles of gender equality to assess climate change and its updated NDC mentions climate change effects on vulnerable groups such as women, children, ethnic minorities and older persons (United Nations NDC Registry Database, n.d.).



2) *Horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms* — Promote holistic communication at a national level for the development of climate action agendas. For instance, between ministries (including women’s ministries and gender expert institutions), civil society and grass-root level municipal entities.

Mainly high-income countries, such as Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand, are coordinating efforts to address climate change (ESCAP et al., 2021). Australia, for example, has included gender in the preparation of its NDC, in coordination with domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner (Australian Government, 2022).

3) *Allocation of financial resources, including sectoral budgets to support NDC targets* — Encourages use of national financial mechanisms and the private sector to invest in sectoral and local climate action plans. The inclusion of gender in climate funding and budgets is critical for the implementation of NDCs and the achievement of equal and inclusive climate action.

While certain countries, such as the Republic of Korea, continue to financially support carbon-neutrality transition plans to tackle the climate crisis,<sup>32</sup> in Asia and the Pacific, there has largely not explicitly been an addition of gender budgets to implement and accelerate climate action plans.

4) *Monitoring capacity, namely, monitoring, reporting and verification* — Underscores the centrality of measuring NDC implementation and effectiveness (emissions reductions) including gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation. Gender mainstreaming in climate action requires sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators to show the effective, equitable and inclusive progress of climate action plans.

Few countries in Asia and the Pacific give priority to the promotion of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (ESCAP et al., 2021). The Updated NDC of Cambodia has included monitoring, reporting and verification systems based on mitigation, adaptation and a GHG inventory, as well as support needed and support received to track the implementation of their NDC. This will include how data are managed and translated into reports, with particular focus on gender and vulnerable groups (Kingdom of Cambodia, 2020).

## 4.2. Gender mainstreaming progress in national adaptation plans on climate change

Mainstreaming gender in NAPs on climate change serves to ensure the full implementation and monitoring of climate adaptation initiatives at the national level. Furthermore, NAPs can be vehicles for developing the adaptation component of a country’s NDC and ensure high-level climate change objectives in the region.

Notable examples of good practices of mainstreaming gender in NAPs are found in Fiji<sup>33</sup> and Kiribati.<sup>34</sup> Both underscore that when a holistic approach is adopted and gender and other

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<sup>32</sup> The Republic of Korea plans to set a total of approximately USD 51.7 billion to invest in the Green New Deal, which will contribute to the achievement of the NDC and improve the sustainability of society (Republic of Korea, 2021).

<sup>33</sup> [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Parties/National%20Adaptation%20Plan\\_Fiji.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Parties/National%20Adaptation%20Plan_Fiji.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Parties/Kiribati-Joint-Implementation-Plan-for-Climate-Change-and-Disaster-Risk-Management-2019-2028.pdf>



intersectional needs are mainstreamed, it is easier to guarantee the full realization of climate action goals (figure 6).

**Figure 6: Examples of mainstreaming gender in climate change plans in Fiji and Kiribati**



Increasing the extent of gender-responsive strategies in NAPs on climate change in Asia and the Pacific requires countries in the region to include intersectional considerations with gender-specific responses to climate action. This encompasses planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore, gender mainstreaming should be cross-cutting in capacity development, institutional arrangements, information sharing and financing, such as by involving the ministry responsible for gender in the climate adaptation planning process and implementing gender-responsive budgeting across climate change strategies (FAO, 2019 and 2023).

Framing gender issues has increased in the proportion of documents that refer to gender equality. Not only Fiji and Kiribati, but also other countries in Asia and the Pacific have included thematic areas and adaptation actions to explicitly promote gender equality (Dazé and Hunter, 2022). For instance, Nepal’s NAP contains a priority adaptation programme on “gender equality and social inclusion, livelihoods and governance”, which aims to address the increased vulnerability of women and other marginalized groups to climate change through capacity-building and specific actions for improving livelihoods (Government of Nepal, 2021). Armenia’s NAP indicates that by recognizing and addressing the gender impacts of climate change, the promotion of women’s participation in adaptation strategies and decision-making can also increase (Government of the Republic of Armenia, 2021). Timor-Leste’s NAP incorporates a strong gender-based analysis to address the differentiated impacts of climate change and promotes a progressive gender-sensitive and participatory approach (Government of Timor-Leste, 2021).



The progress made in advancing gender-responsive NAPs in the region demonstrates the unique opportunities that recognizing gender-responsiveness in climate action provides. This can help guarantee the full realization of UNFCCC and ensure more equitable communities and societies in Asia and the Pacific. As more countries develop their NDCs and NAPs on climate change, it is important to underscore that ensuring effective collaboration and implementation requires increasing relevant gender data, including sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data, mainstreaming gender into national strategies focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment, and ensuring synergies between monitoring and evaluation frameworks.







## 5. Recommendations

Governments and stakeholders in the region, as well as policymakers, can promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in climate action as follows:

### **A. Strengthen the linkage between gender, climate change, agriculture, environment and DRR interventions (policy and programmatic), as well as broader social, economic, cultural and political frameworks.**

#### ***Utilize a gender-responsive and intersectional approach***

Guarantee the meaningful and sustained engagement of women-led, and youth-led networks and organizations, including indigenous women environmental defenders and grassroots communities, across all levels of decision-making and through bottom-up approaches.

#### ***Address structural gender inequalities exacerbated due to climate change as an underlying driver of risk in the planning and implementation of climate change plans, such as policies, governance, NDCs and NAPs***

Promote an intersectional lens in national and local DRR strategies. Understanding and taking into account differing needs, priorities, access to resources, roles and power dynamics, as well as engaging women, men and all expressions of gender equally at all levels of climate planning and implementation can ensure more effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes, and that all citizens have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from climate action.

#### ***Underscore the need for cross-sectoral, coordinated action***

Address the diverse and gendered challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change, and integrate the migration, environment and climate change nexus in policies and frameworks at all levels, drawing linkages across global processes including the International Migration Review Forum, COP 27, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

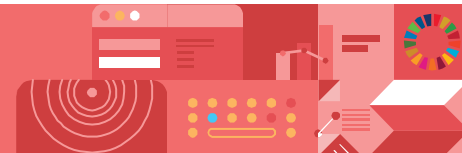
#### ***Recognize women's unpaid care work and how climate change impacts it***

Encourage awareness of women's time poverty due to unpaid care and domestic work in times of climate crises, as well as the role men and boys can play in the promotion of long-term normative change. Invest in finding ways to tabulate the value of women's unpaid work contributions to the economy in terms of gross domestic product.

### **B. Improve data availability on the gendered risks and impacts of climate change, environment degradation and disasters to enhance inclusive and gender-responsive policy development and programming.**

#### ***Promote the use of gender data – including sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data – in climate action plans and policies to facilitate disaster trend projections and identification of impacts on different demographic groups***

Highlight, in particular, the needs and issues concerning women working in agriculture and fisheries, including lack of access to land, their contribution to the economy through unpaid care and domestic work, and the linkage between climate change and gender-based violence.



***Collaborate on and monitor the impacts of climate change on gender equality and women's empowerment***

Promote collaboration between women's ministries, ministries of health, ministries of agriculture and the ministries that govern climate change, disaster risk management and environmental management by sharing responsibility for data collection and reporting between them.

**C. Demonstrate strong political commitment by carrying out concrete actions guided by the acknowledgement of the rights, needs and priorities of women and marginalized groups.**

***Eliminate harmful gender norms, including by promoting women's leadership in climate action***

Institutionalize policy changes aimed at renegotiating gender roles and facilitating shifts in behaviours and attitudes to acknowledge the value of women to society.

***Strengthen policy coherence and the integration of gender and human rights across climate, DRR, socioeconomic development and environmental policies***

Establish gender frameworks and/or action plans of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to operationalize and address multiple and intersecting inequalities, raise climate ambition, and strengthen accountability to women and the most disadvantaged people. Policies and strategies to consider in this context include NDCs and NAPs on climate change, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and DRR plans.

***Reduce time spent on resource collection by improving and subsidizing access to clean and efficient technologies and infrastructure***

Facilitate the transition to clean energies by including women's accessibility to them and their needs in the development of programmes and projects, mainly in rural areas. Integrate gender and social inclusion considerations at all stages of upgrading, repairing and relocating new and existing critical public infrastructure to enhance resilience.

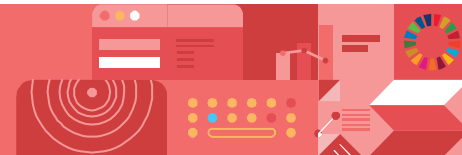
**D. Establish a comprehensive monitoring and accountability framework to evaluate outcomes as a result of the integration of gender equality into climate action, disaster risk management, environmental sustainability and other related domains.**

***Ensure a whole-of-society approach through adaptable subnational, national and regional governance mechanisms***

Link ministries working on women affairs, energy, agriculture, environment, treasury, disaster management and health, as well as through working in partnership with donors, financial institutions, and civil society organizations that operate in humanitarian, disaster and development settings. Ensure the representation of women affairs ministries in decision-making spaces related to climate, disasters and the environment.

***Mainstream gender in monitoring, reporting and verification systems to identify gender gaps and effectively promote gender-responsive climate action***

Build gender equality capacities within monitoring, reporting and verification teams to verify that climate gender-responsive actions are measured and reported with transparency, accuracy and reliability in national plans, arrangements, laws, regulations and policies.



## **E. Value, promote and amplify women's voices, agency, participation and leadership.**

### ***Recognize the diverse knowledge, skills and capacities of women, gender minorities and indigenous groups to ensure effective climate action***

Enhance the awareness and support of traditional knowledge and gender-specific needs to reduce disaster risks as well as adapt and mitigate climate changes.

### ***Improve access to training and capacity development for rural women***

Enhance the awareness of the crucial benefits of rural women's access to training on climate smart agricultural practices and technologies for improving their paid work and securing food.

### ***Expand women's access to land and rural finance***

Provide women with greater access to land, finance and production inputs, as this is critical to close the rural productivity gap between men and women. Microfinance institutions and other financial service providers with a presence in rural areas can play a key role in supporting women farmers. They can also play a significant function in promoting women's access to land by ensuring that women benefit from land titling projects.

### ***Ensure women's meaningful participation and leadership in the monitoring and evaluation of climate policies and plans***

Invest in programmes/interventions that aim to improve women's influence and role in decision-making and leadership at all levels of food systems (household, community and ecosystems) and across the full span of value chains.

## **F. Support, invest in and utilize women's knowledge, skills and capacities.**

### ***Ensure women's labour force participation in the green and blue economy***

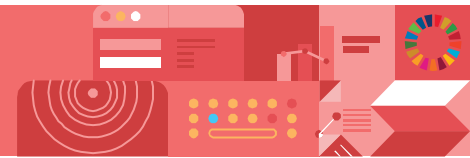
Invest in women's access to green skills and guarantee that policies and programmes promote decent green jobs for women, with fair and equal wages, as well as proper working conditions in resilient and net-zero economies. A just transition must ensure that women participate and benefit from low-carbon green economies and are not left behind.

### ***Support women, especially rural women, as green and blue entrepreneurs***

Promote a green and blue economy, which fosters women's entrepreneurship that is environmentally sustainable, especially with cleaner energy technologies. Enhance policy commitment at the national level to create and support an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs to thrive. Ensure assistance of organizations and/or the private sector willing and capable of supporting women green and blue entrepreneurs.

### ***Adopt climate smart agriculture practices, with emphasis on the promotion of sustainable practices that include women's employment***

Enhance climate ambition sustainable practices that take into account women's employment, environmental knowledge and needs in crop management, livestock, farming and fisheries.



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