

# EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES

Photo: UNEP/Andrew Ball

## BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are unequally felt across Asia and the Pacific region. Women and marginalized groups have less access to information, resources, finance and technologies, leaving them with greater challenges in coping and rebuilding after a crisis.

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

As the programme enters its second phase in 2023, it has expanded to include Indonesia and the Philippines with support from the Governments of Sweden and New Zealand. EmPower will continue to engineer alternative climate-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable communities, reduce emissions through renewable energy and spark commitments to ensure gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and actions.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Programme Title:** EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies (Phase II)

**Responsible Agencies:**  
UN Women and UN Environment Programme

**Duration:** 5 Years  
(January 2023 –December 2027)

**Geographical Coverage:**  
Asia-Pacific region with a focus on Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia Philippines and Viet Nam





Photo: UNEP/Raza Shahriar, Rahman

## STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



Asia and the Pacific is the **most disaster-prone region** in the world. In 2022, floods were the deadliest, accounting for 74.4 per cent of disaster events in the region and 88.4 per cent of total deaths globally.



Temperatures are **rising two times faster** in Asia than the global average, which is associated with the increased frequency and severity of weather-related natural disasters.



According to the Global Climate Risk Index, **6 out of the 10 countries** most affected by climate change from 2000 to 2019 are located in Asia and the Pacific.



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



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

# PROJECT STRATEGY

**Impact: People in Asia-Pacific experience greater gender equality and the full enjoyment of their rights, including equal access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.**

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

## Outputs:

Regional and national actors are more knowledgeable to implement and monitor gender-responsive and human rights-based climate change, renewable energy and DRR policies and plans.

Investment in renewable energy and green technology in the region is scaled up and promoted based on a gender-responsive approach and the principle of leaving no one behind.

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

## Outputs:

Women leaders, national and regional CSOs and networks supporting women and other marginalized groups are better equipped to engage in climate change and DRR negotiations and decision-making.

Public awareness of women's leadership in climate action, renewable energy and DRR is improved, including awareness of prevention strategies for GBV and gender-based discrimination.

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

## Outputs:

Women and other marginalized groups in the region have access to resources, including finance, for renewable energy-based businesses and climate-resilient technologies.

Women and other marginalized groups have strengthened skills for climate-resilient livelihoods, including in the renewable energy sector.

## KEY RESULTS IN PHASE I



**2,000+**  
women benefited from country-level interventions



**2,000**  
people have increased capacity through e-learning on gender equality and human rights in climate action and renewable energy



**425**  
women have built climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy



**50+**  
women-focused organizations and CSOs were empowered to influence decision making on climate change, renewable energy and DRR



**12**  
key policies on climate change, renewable energy and DRR adopted integrating gender equality



**5**  
intergovernmental decisions increasing commitments to gender equality



**Building on the first phase of EmPower, UNEP and UN Women are scaling up the work from 2023.** Phase II will leverage a variety of tools, methodologies, and data to implement existing plans and policies for gender-responsive, human rights-based climate action. The project will expand the scope for women and other marginalized and gender-diverse groups to shape decisions and build resilience, including through new access to finance, technology and renewable energy as a driver of better livelihoods.

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

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Governments
- Communities
- Women Entrepreneurs
- Civil Society Organizations
- Private Sector
- UN Partners
- Regional Networks and Development Partners
- Intergovernmental Organizations

## CONTACT US

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