

EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES

Photo: UNEP/Andrew Ball

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

EmPower will continue to mobilize investment for renewable energy entrepreneurship and skills development for women and marginalized groups, promote their leadership to drive the just energy transition as well as spark commitments to accelerate gender-responsive climate policies and actions.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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

Responsible Agencies:
UN Women and UN Environment Programme

Duration: 5 Years
(January 2023 –December 2027)

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



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 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 the region. **The most vulnerable communities** are at risk of injuries, displacement, food and water insecurity and loss of livelihoods, among others.



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

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

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

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



PROGRAMME STRATEGY – PHASE II

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

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

Outputs:

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

Investments in renewable energy and green technology are scaled up and promoted using a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach.

Governments and other duty bearers are equipped with knowledge and skills to develop or enhance gender-responsive and rights-based measures into new and existing policies, roadmaps, action plans and guidelines for climate action, renewable energy and DRR.

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

Outputs:

Enhanced leadership and capacity women and other marginalized group to effectively participate in climate-related decision-making on climate, renewable energy and DRR.

Opportunities for women and marginalized groups to participate in climate change and DRR decision-making processes are expanded.

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

Outputs:

Partnerships and networks strengthened to promote gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihoods based on the principle of leaving no one behind.

Women and other marginalized groups in the region have increased access to resources, including finance, technology and skills for climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy and other low-carbon technologies.

PHASE II KEY TARGETS



USD 20M

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



110,000

women will benefit from climate-resilient livelihoods and services.



1,600

women will build climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy.



800

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



15

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



INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS

will increase commitments to gender equality.



EmPower organized a side event at COP28 with the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
Photo: UN Women

PARTNERSHIPS

- Governments
- Communities
- Women entrepreneurs
- Civil society organizations
- Private sector
- Financial institutions
- UN partners
- Regional networks and development partners
- Intergovernmental organizations

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

Visit www.empowerforclimate.org to learn more.

CONTACT US

Maria Holtsberg

Humanitarian Action, DRR and Climate Portfolio Lead
UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Email: maria.holtsberg@unwomen.org

Parimita Mohanty

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