

EMPOWER: WOMEN FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT SOCIETIES

OUR WORK ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Photo: UNEP/Andrew Ball

BACKGROUND

The [EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies Programme](#) ([EmPower](#)) aims to foster the use of renewable energy for women's economic empowerment and climate-resilient livelihoods. It focuses on access to finance, providing appropriate skills and facilitating the transition to low carbon, sustainable development and enhancing climate resilience.

OUR WORK ON RENEWABLE ENERGY



Mobilizing investment for renewable energy and fostering women's entrepreneurship



Skills development



Supporting the implementation of gender-responsive energy policies

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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

Responsible Agencies:

UN Women and UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Duration: 5 Years

(January 2023 –December 2027)

Geographical Coverage:

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



MOBILIZING INVESTMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UNEP, through EmPower, has committed to raise USD 20 million in investments for renewable energy technologies and interventions that are gender-responsive and uphold the principle of leaving no one behind. To achieve this target, EmPower is partnering with financial institutions and collaborating with existing regional initiatives. An investor forum with regional actors will be held to identify and commit to investment in renewable energy initiatives.

EmPower works with financial institutions at the national and regional levels to design gender-responsive financial products, seeking to make financing more accessible to women and other marginalized groups. This is achieved through leveraging and mobilizing resources to support women entrepreneurs and women-led micro, small, and medium-sized renewable energy-based enterprises, including those from marginalized communities.



Entrepreneur in Cambodia supported by EmPower

TARGET GROUPS

1. Women-owned/women-led enterprises as defined below
2. Other marginalized groups, including the poorest, most at-risk to climate impacts, ethnic minorities, Indigenous groups, LGBTIQ+ individuals and communities, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, people with disabilities, and people living with HIV.

Women-owned enterprise

An enterprise qualifies as a woman-owned enterprise if it meets the following criteria:

- A. $\geq 51\%$ owned by woman/women; or

Women-led enterprise

- B. $\geq 20\%$ owned by woman/women; and (i) has ≥ 1 woman as CEO/COO/C-suite positions or equivalent; and (ii) has $\geq 30\%$ of the board of directors composed of women, where a board exists; or

Employment

30-50% share of women in the workforce and/or one "quality" indicator beyond compliance; and

Consumption

Product/s or service/s that specifically or disproportionately benefit women and other vulnerable or marginalized groups, i.e. the poorest, at risk of climate impacts, most vulnerable and marginalized, including ethnic minorities, Indigenous groups, LGBTIQ+ individuals and communities, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, people with disabilities, and people living with HIV.

Eligible size of enterprises

EmPower targets [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises \(MSMEs\)](#) that fall within the target group described above.

Eligible technologies under EmPower

Only clean technologies are supported through EmPower. Under EmPower, a technology is classified as clean if it contributes to mitigating CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. This includes carbon avoidance, such as renewable energy, fuel-switching, energy efficiency and waste management, as well as technological carbon removal, such as carbon capture and storage. Other clean technologies may also be eligible after a close assessment by UNEP.



Climate tech start-up founders at the LowCarbon.Earth Accelerator Programme Investors Forum

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

EmPower supports skill development and capacity building for women entrepreneurs and women-led micro, small and medium enterprises from marginalized groups through e-learning, start-ups and business incubation programmes in renewable energy.

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES

Together with clean energy policy makers at national and regional levels, EmPower is working to:

- Support the implementation of existing policies
- Promote evidence-driven decision-making and provide technical assistance to further refine policies and support the monitoring and evaluation
- Increase the capacity of policymakers to apply knowledge and skills on gender and human rights in their work
- Increase the creditworthiness and credit rating schemes for women



EmPower supported side event at COP28

Additional resources on EmPower's work and women's renewable energy entrepreneurship can be found on the programme's website: www.empowerforclimate.org.

UNEP and UN Women welcome new partnerships 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.

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