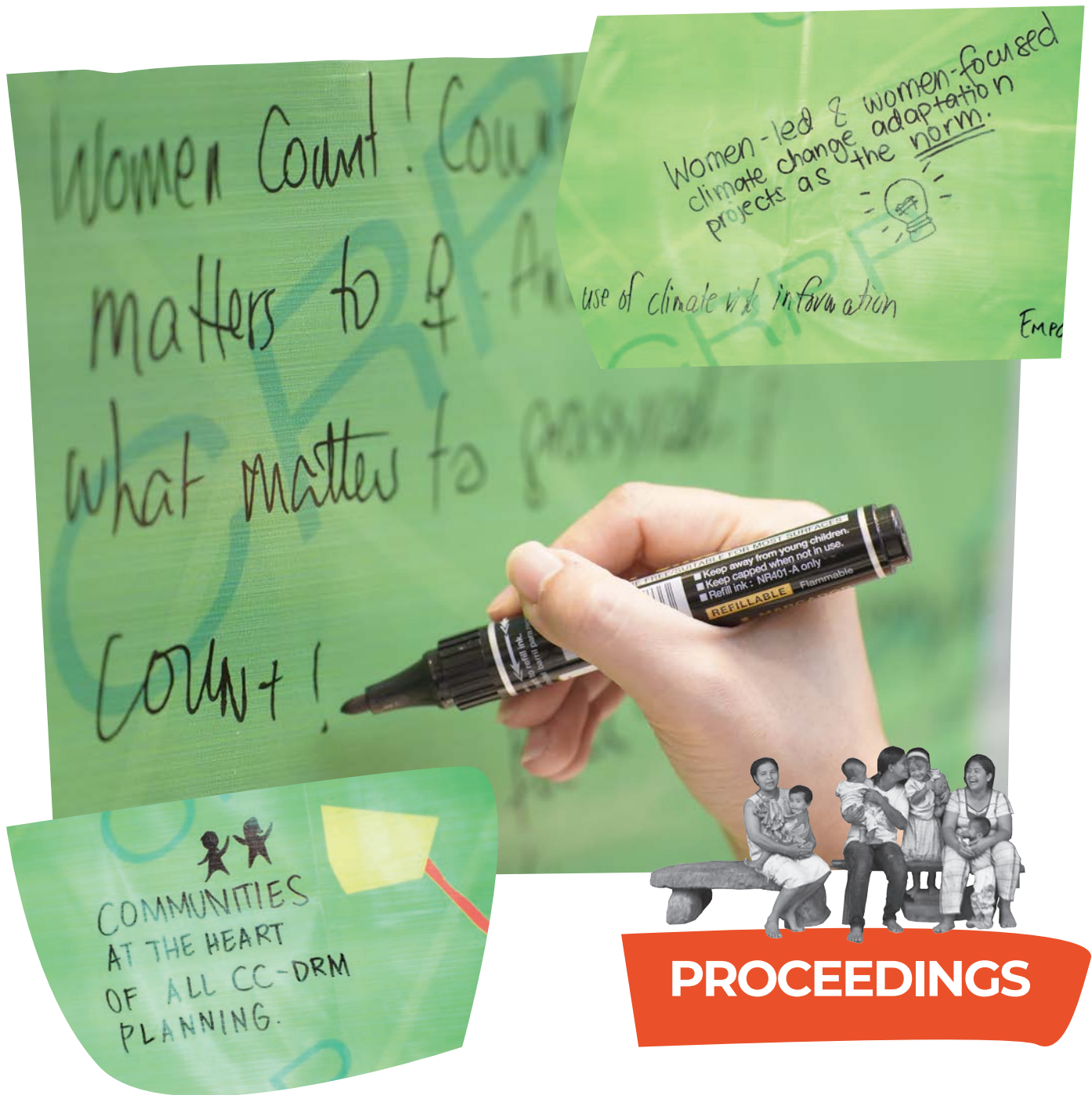


Community Resilience Partnership Program PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2023



28 February - 1 March 2023 | Courtyard by Marriott, Bangkok, Thailand



ABOUT THE FORUM

The Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) Partnership Forum is planned as an annual event that would bring together community leaders, government officials, policy research organizations, development partners, and financial institutions active in Asia and the Pacific region to discuss solutions for scaling up climate adaptation interventions in communities, especially adaptation interventions that address the nexus between climate, poverty, and gender.

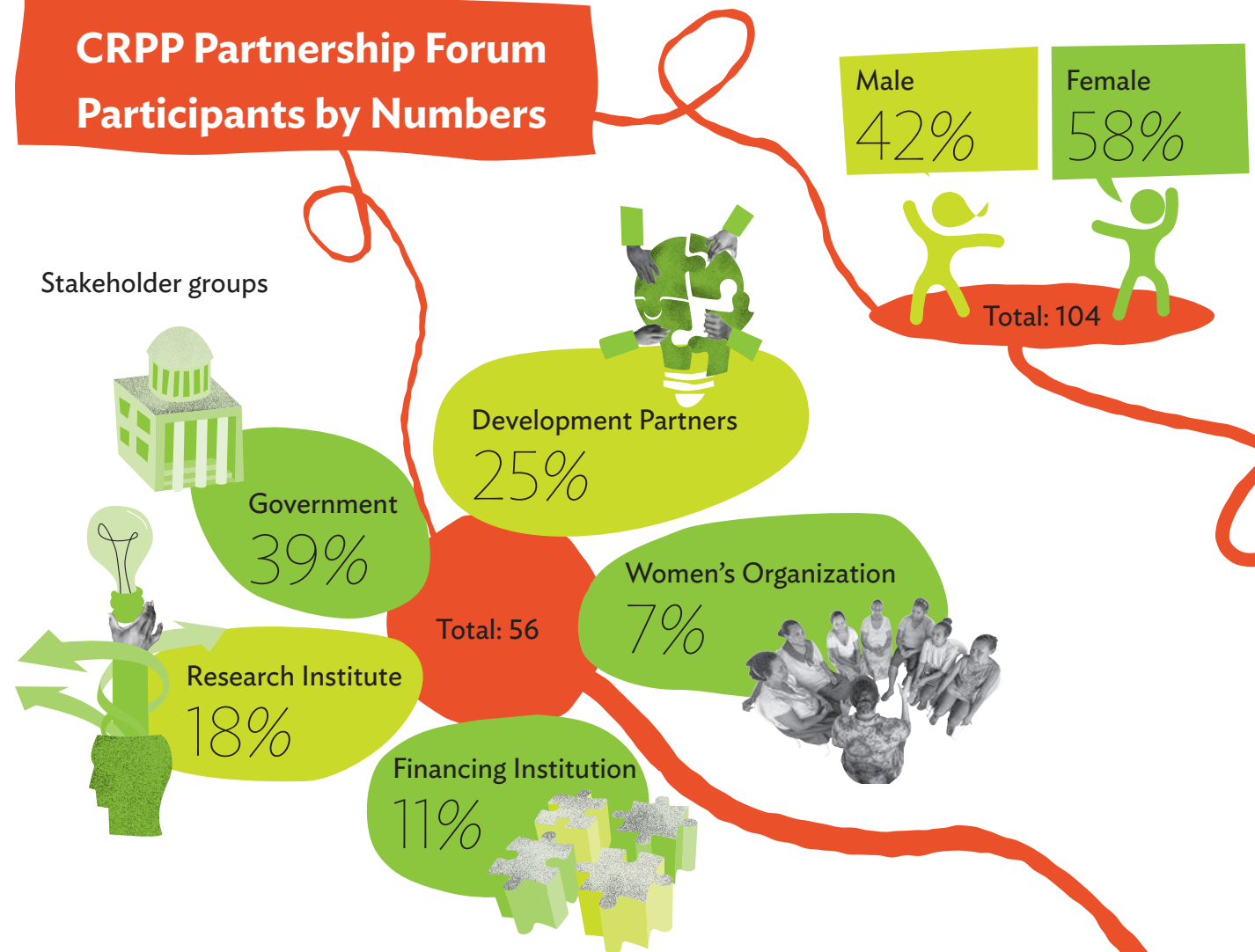
The inaugural **CRPP Partnership Forum 2023**, on 28 February–1 March 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, convened a wide range of CRPP stakeholders to discuss this central question: “How should poverty reduction programs be designed and implemented differently in the context of increasing climate risks?”

What is the Community Resilience Partnership Program?

Community Resilience Partnership Program, or CRPP, aims to scale up resilience investments in communities across Asia and the Pacific, especially investments that address the nexus between climate and poverty.

[More about the program](#)

CRPP Partnership Forum Participants by Numbers



KEY MESSAGES

Speakers responded to this central question: “How should poverty reduction programs be designed and implemented differently in the context of increasing climate risks?”

Facilitate synergies across programs. Poverty, vulnerability to climate change, and gender inequality are multidimensional and inextricably linked. Poverty reduction, gender equality, or climate resilience cannot be achieved without the other, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Different interventions are needed to address different poverty, gender, and vulnerability contexts across geographies, livelihoods, and communities. Investments supported by climate finance and development finance need to work towards shared objectives of reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, and building climate resilience. Poverty reduction programs and climate resilience programs should agree on principles for coordination and where possible collaborate on efforts to leverage resources and promote synergy.

Climate science should inform decision-making. Poverty reduction programs need to be designed to respond to current climate risks and future climate change impacts. This will require decision-making informed by an understanding of how climate change impacts poverty drivers in specific contexts using reliable and relevant data. Conversely, poverty assessments need to include data and information related to climate risks. Corresponding interventions should make use of climate models to ensure that the projected long-term impacts of climate change are considered. Data and information systems capable of integrated assessments of poverty drivers and climate risks in various scenarios must inform policy and decision-making.

Put women at the center of solutions. Climate adaptation initiatives in communities offer an opportunity to look into what works for women in vulnerable communities, such as the type of programs, accessible financing modalities, and nature of partnerships that women value and benefit from. Experiences of grassroots women’s groups provide a strong foundation for such learning and can inform the design and delivery of poverty reduction and resilience programs to ensure women are at the center, in charge, and leading solutions in their communities.

Channel financing to strengthen local agency. Financing programs to build local resilience and reduce poverty should aim at strengthening risk-informed and inclusive decision-making processes at the local level. This can be done by embedding climate risk considerations into formal decentralization processes; building the capacity of local governments and communities to understand and interpret data and information on climate change; institutionalizing participatory and gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and monitoring processes involving communities; and ensuring that financing for building resilience demonstrates downward accountability toward communities. Experiences from community-driven development programs and gender-based budgeting processes can provide useful insights.



Value addition of the CRPP

The CRPP aims to take adaptation solutions to scale, especially those that act at the nexus of poverty reduction, gender equality, and climate resilience. The CRPP can add value to poverty reduction programs as:

CRPP Catalyst for new resilience approaches. CRPP can support countries in moving from planning to implementation of adaptation actions through developing and financing resilience programs that identify communities as agents of change, promote convergence of solutions across scale and sectors, and adopt innovative and flexible financing modalities focused on achieving results.

Enabler of targeted policy reforms. CRPP can support countries in identifying and introducing targeted policy reforms that can address barriers, help align incentive structures, and unlock financing for implementing gender-responsive community adaptation solutions at scale.

User of local systems to implement adaptation solutions. CRPP can support countries in strengthening local systems to help implement adaptation solutions. Active leadership of local government and partnerships among local stakeholders will be key enabling factors for institutionalizing adaptation solutions in communities.

Connector of solutions. By bringing stakeholders together, CRPP can help synergize local adaptation priorities of National Adaptation Plans with priorities of poverty reduction strategies, gender strategies, and sector strategies and use such information to influence scaling up of resilience programs.

Innovator and tester of new ideas. CRPP can facilitate the pilot-testing and demonstration of innovative women-led adaptation solutions and approaches to generate knowledge on how to build community resilience.



Adaptive Social Protection

The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted how critical social protection systems are for poor and vulnerable households. National climate adaptation plans and strategies are increasingly turning to social protection as an adaptation response. The CRPP recognizes that adaptive social protection will require investments for scaling up.

Move from policy to implementation. National adaptation plans and policies have identified adaptive social protection as a priority for building the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities. There is an urgent need now to move forward and help translate the priority into action on the ground. This would require strengthening the evidence base on the features that make social protection programs a success in responding to shocks and stresses and ensuring resources are allocated in support of such features.

Strengthen and formalize partnerships. All stakeholders have an important role to play in adaptive social protection, particularly local governments and grassroots women's groups. There is a need to strengthen the linkage between social protection and the decentralization agenda and to formalize the role of grassroots women's groups in the design and delivery of social protection programs.

Invest in integrated data systems. Investments are needed to build and strengthen integrated data systems across social protection and climate risk management space. It will be critical to make use of advanced technology, such as geospatial data and satellite imagery, big data, machine learning and AI, and innovative tools and methodologies for embedding climate data within wider social registries. Investment in bottom-up processes for collecting and updating data on local and gendered vulnerabilities is also needed.

Scale up financing for resilience outcomes. Increased financing is needed to scale up adaptive social protection systems, mobilized from national budgets, global climate funds, disaster risk insurance schemes and catastrophe bonds, as well as more innovative approaches such as tying investment in nature-based solutions delivered through labor market programs to the sale of credits in carbon markets. It is also important to ensure that financing for social protection programs is flexible, agile, adaptive, and focused on outcomes. Results-based financing modalities can be explored for resilience outcomes. Also, recognizing the important role local governments play in social protection, it will be important to strengthen climate budgeting systems at the subnational level as part of a wider national climate fiscal framework.

Enhance convergence of programs for better outcomes. Adaptive social protection is important, but it is only one part of a larger basket of interventions needed to build climate resilience in communities. Thus, to maximize the potential of adaptive social protection programs to build resilience it is important to link with programs on community health and nutrition, gender-based violence, nature-based solutions, climate-resilient livelihoods, early warning systems, and disaster risk financing.



SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlight 1: Climate Risk Information for Adaptive Social Protection

- ⌚ Social protection systems can be leveraged to respond to different natural hazards and provide timely support to affected populations. However, the ability to effectively respond to climate hazards depends on the availability of certain data. Very few social protection programs have data on climate and natural hazard vulnerability.
- ⌚ Climate risk information systems offer data on historical hazards and trends (e.g., flood/drought frequency and severity), near real-time data (e.g., rainfall/flood extent in the past week), and predictive information (e.g., seasonal climate forecast), which enable to move from ad hoc to predictive safety nets.
- ⌚ Investment is needed to enhance climate information systems and link them to social protection systems.
- ⌚ Climate risk-informed social protection entails transforming the way that targeting, benefits, and timeframe of response are designed into social protection systems.
- ⌚ Big data from remote sensing, online data, and citizen-reported data, among other sources, can be used for enhanced targeting of beneficiaries.
- ⌚ Integrated data systems that use innovative tools and methodologies for using climate data within wider social registries will be critical.
- ⌚ Gendered climate risk assessments are central to forecast-based early actions (FbEA), which has been found as an effective approach to building resilience and enhancing gender responsiveness, especially in communities.
- ⌚ FbEA builds on gendered climate risk assessments to understand the different vulnerabilities, hazards and needs faced by women, men, children, older adults, and people with disabilities. This analysis can help support establishing early warning systems, identifying early action mechanisms and planning, triggering activation, disbursing funds, implementing early actions, and learning and evaluation.

Spotlight 2: Scaling-up Nature-based Solutions through Active Labor Market Programs

- ⌚ Labor market programs, like labor guarantee schemes, provide important opportunities for scaling-up Nature Based Solutions (NbS) in poor and vulnerable communities. These schemes can create natural assets through forest restoration, organic farming, and soil and water conservation, to address climate risks and deliver ecosystem services in communities. They can also strengthen institutional systems to improve and monitor the quality of natural assets created under productive safety net programs.
- ⌚ Scaling up NbS through labor market programs requires
 1. ensuring active local participation in the identification, design, and management of natural assets/green jobs;
 2. using policy incentives (like National Adaptation Plans) to promote NbS and associated green skills and jobs through labor market instruments; and
 3. deploying innovative funding instruments like anticipatory and contingency funding and resource pooling and layering to deliver at scale.
- ⌚ For transformative adaptation, labor guarantee schemes should support re-skilling and up-skilling of the rural workforce to shape and benefit from climate-resilient and green jobs in agro-forestry, climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable tourism.



Climate Resilient Rural Livelihoods

Transformative change is required to build climate-resilience rural poor communities. Lost agricultural income is a key factor that drives disproportionate impacts of climate change among rural households. Low-income households in rural communities, where small-scale agriculture is the dominant livelihood, are most vulnerable to climate change. The CRPP is keen on investing in transformative approaches to build more resilient livelihoods for communities.

Make resilience a key objective. Understanding climate risk and building resilience need to become considered in the design of rural development and livelihood programs. Resilience interventions should allow poor households and communities to build assets, access markets, and increase knowledge and capacity. Capturing learning should be an integral program component. Building innovative partnerships to deliver these programs will be important.

Use a systems approach to resilience building. Many interventions are needed to change socio-ecological systems. Investments in packages of socio-technical innovative solutions are needed. These packages of interventions should be tested with holistic systems approach that links research, policy, and application.

Leverage new technologies. New tools in data science, data management, and machine learning and AI can generate chunks of data on weather, food prices, poverty, climate and vulnerability, among other data. These can support the decision-making of individual farmers and inform government policy and programs on building resilient rural livelihoods. Innovative agricultural practices and technologies, such as floating agriculture, new seed varieties, vertical gardens, and modern processing techniques, among others, can help households build resilience. Leveraging these technologies will require strengthening local capacity.

Promote inclusive governance and community-led adaptation. Communities and local governments should lead the design and implementation of livelihood interventions to allow the appropriate identification and targeting of interventions, based on specific local contexts and climate risks. Financing mechanisms must provide communities and local governments control over resources and influence in decision-making processes. Strengthening the capacities of communities and local governments and improving access to information and knowledge, within the context of decentralization of governance, will be important.

Put women at the center of design and implementation. Funding priorities for building climate-resilient rural communities should be set by local groups, especially by grassroots women's organizations. Women are often key to bridging the gap in communication between the most vulnerable people in communities and the local government. Work in rural communities across the region shows that risk and vulnerability assessments are important entry points for supporting gender and inclusion, as they can involve women in participatory processes. Women are also seen to manage money in a transparent way. Flexible funds managed by women are critical in building climate-resilient rural livelihoods.



Spotlight 3: Livelihood diversification as an adaptation strategy: How can poor households benefit?

- ⌚ On-farm livelihood diversification can be an important adaptation strategy, but more evidence is needed on its transformative potential for building resilience and lifting people out of poverty, especially in places where climate change impacts are being felt the most.
- ⌚ Where on-farm diversification is viable, access to market and climate information can facilitate the adoption of new climate-smart agricultural practices that support better income generation.
- ⌚ Planning and policy need to respond to climate-driven migration. Rural households are increasingly turning to migration and remittances from employment in urban centers as an adaptation strategy to diversify incomes. Rural-to-urban migration should be anticipated and seen as an opportunity, with cities being made ready to receive and support climate migrants while avoiding increased density in and vulnerability of urban poor informal settlements.
- ⌚ Investment in skills development for future generations will be critical to providing opportunities to participate in labor markets that are transitioning to a low-carbon economy. Skills training for jobs in receiving towns and settlements would increase incomes.
- ⌚ Specific social interventions to improve women's mobility may be required in some countries for women to benefit from off-farm opportunities.
- ⌚ There needs to be support for those left behind, especially women. Such support needs to recognize it is often women who are left behind so services should be appropriate for women.
- ⌚ There is a need for targeted investment in women farmers that provide a package of activities, based on gendered risk analysis that responds to their specific needs. For example, agricultural extension services should be delivered in areas of interest to women and at times and locations that they can easily access.
- ⌚ Women's care work is still not considered sufficient as part of interventions in livelihoods.

Spotlight 4: Investing in women farmers: Opportunities for transformative adaptation

- ⌚ Climate-smart agriculture can increase productivity, but very little evidence of this results in increased resilience. Access and use of data on targeted interventions for women are critical. Agricultural data on areas where women are most involved, where they are most vulnerable, and structural causes, are needed to address poverty and vulnerability.
- ⌚ Women's role as agents of change must be maximized. Women are overrepresented in the agriculture sector but current approaches towards rural livelihood development do not maximize their potential to lead adaptation within their households and communities.
- ⌚ Women's knowledge and skills are largely untapped, and women do not often have agency or influence over services in their communities.
- ⌚ The best ways of engaging women in their communities should:
 1. Break down the structural barriers that limit women's ability to lead adaptation;
 2. Strengthen women's agency and influence in their communities; and
 3. Provide women with political capital and voice.
- ⌚ Measuring empowerment and understanding pathways and change processes are important.
- ⌚ Investment is needed for women-led community-based organizations that provide opportunities for women to link with leadership opportunities, enable collective strength, and support the unionization of women farmers. Women's organizations need to have the resources to be able to act and influence change.
- ⌚ Women cooperatives can support access to credit facilities for starting new livelihoods, facilitating diversification, and procuring new equipment. They can also be centers for relieving stress and improving mental health and where women learn and share ideas and knowledge.
- ⌚ Strengthening women's groups to influence policy and government decisions should be a priority for building resilient rural livelihoods.



CRPP PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2022

Evidence & Learning for Scaling Research-Dev-Policy Interfaces

Leadership & organizing
Resilience building action
GEI!

Community-driven & gender-responsive approaches make a difference!

PARTNER & SCALE-UP SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS ALREADY TESTED (e.g. PBCRGs)

COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF ALL CC-DRM PLANNING.

Dear ADB,
Make sure your investments reach people, including women.
Truly Yours,
we need support directly to

Mainstream women-led climate solutions



Women-led & women-focused climate change adaptation projects as the norm
use of climate risk information
Empowered Resilient

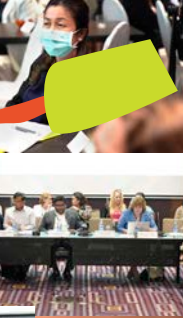
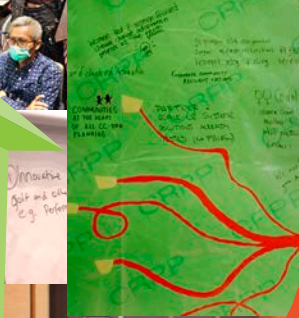


Women & Grassroots leaders at the center of community resilience!

CRPP Vision Board

Strengthening climate resilience at scale while ensuring no one is left behind

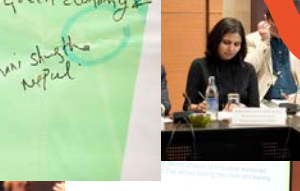
Handwritten notes on the vision board include: 'Increased investments in women's leadership', 'Use ADB Help save your projects', 'Participate in the meetings', 'Strengthened community', 'Use of climate risk information', 'Empowered Resilient', and 'Together we can'.



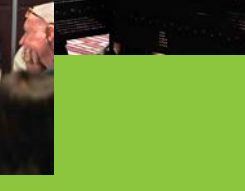
INCREASED INVESTMENTS in women's leadership
Influencing policy & public



What matters to grassroots women's count!
We need to focus on green economy & green development.
- Rashmi Shrestha Nepal



Investments including women's...
Use of climate risk information
Empowered Resilient
can



Forum Proceedings

The Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) Partnership Forum is planned as an annual event that would bring together community leaders, government officials, policy research organizations, development partners, and financial institutions active in the Asia and Pacific region to discuss solutions for scaling up climate adaptation interventions that address the nexus between climate change, poverty, and gender equality in communities.

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CRPP initiated the forum following the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which highlighted that the largest adaptation gap can be found in low-income population groups and that integrated and multisector adaptation solutions that address social inequalities can be more effective.

Condensed from the Forum Proceedings
Community Resilience Partnership Program Partnership Forum
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