

EVENT SNAPSHOT



URBAN CLIMATE
CHANGE RESILIENCE
TRUST FUND

Asian Development Bank

Enhancing women-focused investments in climate and disaster resilience



EVENT DETAILS

Joint Gender Equity TG and Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management TG Webinar: **Enhancing Women-Focused Investments in Climate and Disaster Resilience**

Wednesday, 03 June 2020. Microsoft Teams

SPEAKERS:

- **Zonibel Woods**, Senior Social Development Specialist, SDCC
- **Arghya Sinha Roy**, Senior Climate Change Specialist, SDCC

WOMEN ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

The Gender Equity Technical Group and Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management Technical Group held a webinar to share key findings of a recent publication¹ that calls for women-focused investments in resilience to meet the gender and climate targets of Strategy 2030.

The discussion emphasized that women are agents of change for resilient development. Investment is encouraged to focus more on women to further advance solutions that address multiple vulnerabilities in the wider communities.

The publication also identified five key characteristics for women-focused investments. These include those: (i) having women as the starting point based on robust understanding of risks, e.g. involving women in designing investment projects; (ii) addressing structural inequalities between men and women; (iii) reducing women's time poverty and burdens of care; (iv) generating financial returns; and (iv) transformational investments.

Some ideas for investments based on experiences in agriculture sector in Cambodia and the urban sector in Indonesia were also shared. In the agricultural sector, examples include agricultural extension services targeted toward, tailored to, and led by women; and climate-smart vegetable farming through home gardens. In the urban sector, some ideas for investments include women-operated decentralized water treatment schemes for livelihood diversification; and bundled microinsurance for women to mitigate impacts of natural hazards in urban areas.

The Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund recognizes the role of women in building resilience through funding support for Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Project which provides support to women-initiatives on SWM and livelihoods. The publication provides important guidance for incorporating in future programming more women-focused investments necessary for building climate change and disaster resilience.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

Women are agents of change for resilient development. They lead resilience strategies especially at the local level such as strengthening livelihoods or building communities' adaptive capacity. Enhancing women-focused investments move beyond traditional gender mainstreaming wherein women are only viewed as co-beneficiaries of interventions rather than active stakeholders.

Women-focused investments in climate and disaster resilience should aim for transformational change – systemic shifts in general paradigms including values, patterns of social behavior, governance and management regimes to build new trajectory of development. This requires tackling and addressing multiple gender-based vulnerabilities and socio-cultural

discriminations, e.g. historical patriarchal norms and practices, that impede women's capacities to actively build their resilience. This may include provision of livelihoods and sources of income; promotion of health and well-being; increasing access to assets and finance, data and information; and promotion of women's voice and representation, and institutional strengthening.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- ¹Enhancing Women-Focused Investments in Climate and Disaster Resilience: <https://www.adb.org/publications/women-focused-climate-disaster-resilience>
- UCCRTF: Virinder Sharma, Senior Urban Development Specialist, vsharma@adb.org

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