Rising Above the Heat

Strengthening women's resilience to heat stress

Technical Assistance 10127

01 Extreme heat in Asia

02 Its impact on women

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We are living in an era of accelerating climate change. Building resilience against heat stress requires urgent action.

Heat stress is a profound threat to humans, ecosystems, economies and societies.

01 *Extreme Heat in Asia*

Extreme heat is a major stressor for Asia and the Pacific.

There is an urgent need for sustainable and proactive adaptation interventions to address extreme heat across the region.

Public Health

- Extreme heat kills more people per year than any other climate hazard.
- Annually, 489,000 deaths from heat (2000-2019), 45% in Asia.
- Hot weather events can impact mental health (e.g., anxiety, schizophrenia),and increase people's aggressive tendencies.

Infrastructure

- Heat spikes electricity demand by 50% risking blackouts.
- Asia, warming at double the global rate, is highly vulnerable.
- On average, women have 60% less access to cooling than men

Productivity

- South Asia's work hours lost to heat stress projected at 5.3%, or 43 million jobs.
- High temperatures not only affect physical health but also impact cognitive function and concentration, leading to decreased productivity in workplaces and schools

Food Security

- Extreme heat events are causing agricultural losses and contributing to food insecurity
- 21,000 hectares of rice crop were lost to heat in 2021 in Bangladesh

To combat the growing threat of heat waves **integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation** is essential.

We need to **understand the drivers of increased risk and strengthen collaboration–** cross departmental (health, labor, climate, environment) local governments and civil society.

02 *Impact on Women*

What are some impacts on women?

- **Labour and Employment:** Extreme heat has the heaviest impact on outdoor workers in informal sectors- women majority of agricultural workers and informal sector. In South Asia, women homeworkers make up nearly one quarter of total female employment, compared to just 6% of men.

- **Health:** Women are more susceptible to health impacts of extreme heat, particularly when pregnant or breastfeeding. Each 1°C rise in temperature is linked to a 6% increase in preterm births and a 16% rise in stillbirths during heatwaves.

- **Gender-based violence:** Heat stress exacerbates gender-based violence. A 1°C increase in average annual temperature was connected to an increase in physical and sexual domestic violence of 6.3% across India, Pakistan and Nepal.

02 • Impact on Women

- **Female-headed Households:** Female-headed households lose significantly more of their incomes than male-headed households in the face of extreme weather events- annual income gap of 8 percent due to heat stress.

- **Impact on Crop Value by Women Farmers:** Each day of extreme high temperature reduces the total value of crops produced by women farmers by 3 percent relative to men, highlighting the gendered impact of heat stress on agricultural productivity.

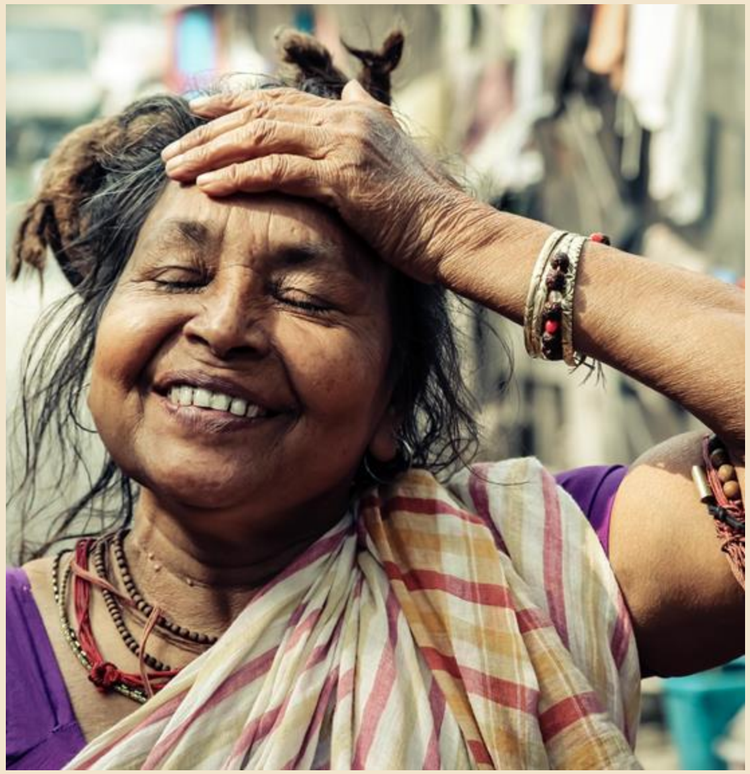
- **Care Work:** Women, who often bear the brunt of household responsibilities, may face additional challenges in balancing caregiving duties and work commitments during heatwaves. Exploring strategies to support flexible work arrangements and avoiding school closures during heat waves is paramount to maintaining productivity and well-being.

03 *ADB's technical assistance*

Gender and Heat Stress Technical Assistance

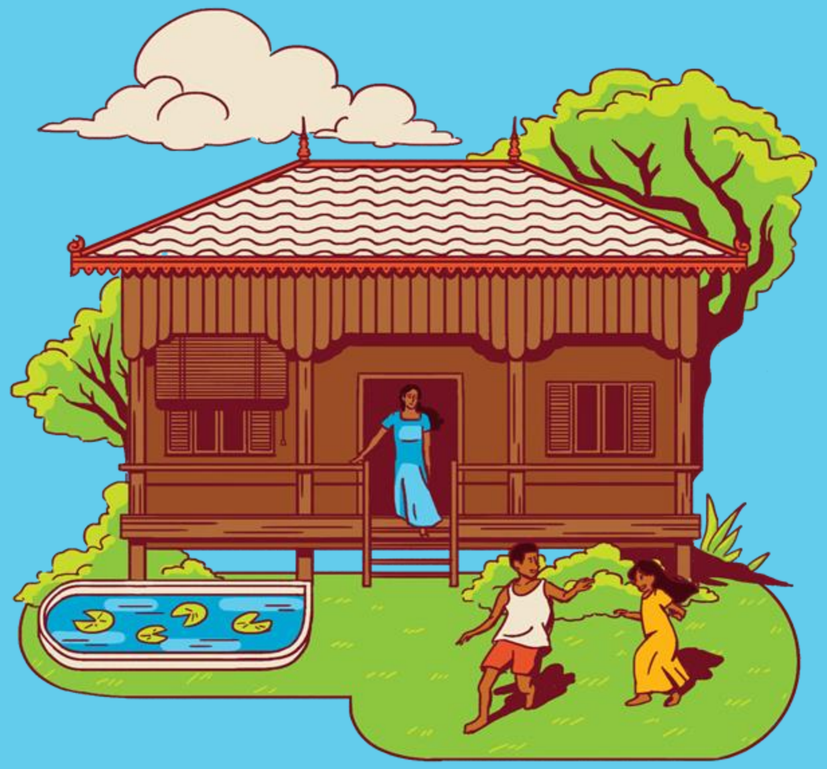
Knowledge and support TA to enhance the capacity of selected DMCs: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan. Through this TA, ADB will:

- Increase knowledge of gender-responsive heat action planning within DMCs
- Support development of gender-responsive heat action plans and early warning systems, including institutional capacity building to enable implementation and monitoring
- Support DMCs in demonstrating priority women-focused actions and solutions, and facilitate knowledge sharing



UPSTREAM

DOWNSTREAM



Scan the QR code or learn more on http://www.adb.org/genderandheat

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Thank you!