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GENDER- TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING

Manila, 2 October 2025
K-Hub, ADB HQ



Learning Objectives

Explain ADB's ambitions and commitments

Enhance understanding of ADB's goals and key actions for achieving gender-transformative climate action.

Explore the gender and climate change nexus

Enhance comprehension of the intersection between gender equality and climate change and its implications.

Develop skills in integrating gender-transformative approaches into climate action

Acquire knowledge of gender-transformative approaches and learn how to effectively integrate them into climate action.



Training Agenda

01

Module 1 Gender & Climate Change Nexus

- Climate change's impact on women
- Why integrate gender into climate action
- ADB's commitments

02

Module 2 Enhancing ADB's Climate Action through Gender-Transformative Solutions

- Gender transformative approaches
- How to integrate gender-transformative approaches into climate action

03

Practical Application

- Group exercise



MODULE 1

GENDER AND
CLIMATE CHANGE
NEXUS



MODULE 1 - SECTION A

UNPACKING THE GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE NEXUS



Mentimeter

When you think about the link between
gender and climate change,
what's the first word that comes to mind?



A.1 Gendered Impacts of Climate Change

- ▶ **Climate change often places women at greater risk due to:**
 - Socially constructed gender roles and norms & structural inequalities
- ▶ **Climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities by:**
 - Reinforcing traditional norms & widening systemic inequalities

Women's vulnerabilities

- Disruption of livelihoods
- Food insecurity
- Increased time poverty
- Increased threats of gender-based violence
- Worsened sexual, reproductive, and maternal health
- Increased displacement
- Reduced access to and use of energy
- Disrupted access to information and services





A.2 Agriculture & Food Security

- Women's livelihoods are closely tied to **climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture**.
- Women face **barriers** such as unequal land rights, insecure tenure, limited access to resources, and few opportunities for diversification or migration.
- Women often receive less food within households, as **norms** prioritize men's food needs, and **caregiving roles** mean they are more likely to skip or reduce meals during scarcity.
- Women farmers, particularly in female-headed households, are more vulnerable to heat stress and drought, with sharper income losses than male-headed farms (FAO 2024).

Consequences

- Increased economic vulnerability for women farmers.
- Widening gender disparities in income, access to resources, and decision-making power.
- Gender disparities in nutrition.

A.3 Energy

Women face more energy-related challenges

- Women handle most household cooking, already exposed to indoor pollution
- In rural areas, women collect fuels for household consumption
- Women have less access to clean energy
- Traditionally, the sector is dominated by men

Climate change worsens these challenges

- Women traveling longer distances to collect fuel are exposed to increased outdoor heat for extended periods
- Extreme heat intensifies indoor cooking conditions
- Heavy indoor smoke from biomass affects women's health

Consequences

- Heightened health risks for women
- Increased time and labor burden
- Reinforced gender inequities in access to clean energy



A.4 Transport

Gender shapes travel patterns and mobility

- Women rely more on public transport, make more multi-stop journeys, and take more non-work trips
- Financial costs, cultural norms, and safety concerns limit women's use of public transport

Climate change impacts women's mobility by

- Disrupting transport systems, longer commutes, and reduced safety
- Increasing exposure to heat when motorized transport is not an option due to cost, safety, and cultural norms.

When transportation is disrupted due to climate change:

- Women's mobility is considered a lower priority

Consequences

- Greater risk of job and income loss due to limited mobility
- Heightened exposure to safety risks during commutes
- Reduced access to education, services, and economic opportunities, widening gender disparities





A.5 The Compounding Impact

Climate change intensifies existing inequalities, leading to a cascade of negative consequences for women and girls.

Time Poverty

- Limited engagement in public life and decision-making.
- Reduced access to education and skill development.
- Exclusion from formal economic opportunities

Gender-Based Violence

- Erosion of women's voice and agency.
- Worsening disparities in education, health, and economic independence.
- Increased vulnerability and long-term trauma.

Across Asia and the Pacific,
the burden of heat falls hardest on
those already facing
compounding vulnerabilities

— particularly **women, children, older adults, people** with disabilities, and informal workers.

Extreme fires are more likely due to increasingly hot, dry, and windy weather conditions, particularly in North Asia.



Marine heat waves are intensifying and will continue to scale, with substantial ecological and economic consequences.

Heat extremes are increasing while **cold extremes** decrease, a trend that will continue in the coming decades.



Glaciers are melting and **permafrost** is thawing, accelerating the impacts of climate change.





Extreme heat kills more people per year than any other climate hazard and exacerbates conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and asthma.



Studies from 2000 to 2019 show an average of 489,000 heat-related deaths annually, with 45% occurring in Asia.

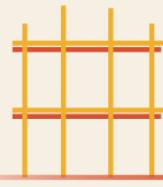


Extreme heat is associated with increases in irritability, depression, and suicide rates. It can also fuel aggression, substance use, and impair memory, attention, and reaction time.



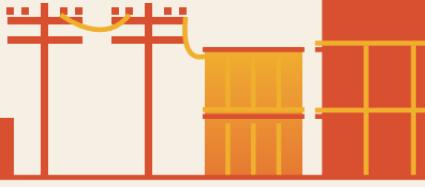
Without interventions, global average temperature will rise **2°C above pre-industrial levels before 2050**, exposing 2.3 billion people to heat's deadly health impacts.

Rising temperatures also have far-reaching impacts on:



Productivity

- Globally, humid heat is linked to over 650 billion hours of annual labor loss.
- South Asia is projected to lose an equivalent of 43 million jobs to heat stress by 2030.
- ASEAN markets could lose 37% of GDP by 2048 if no action on climate is taken.



Infrastructure

- Heat causes a 50% rise in electricity demand during summer in hotter countries, increasing the risk of shortages.
- Two-thirds of large global companies have assets vulnerable to extreme heat, leading to higher maintenance costs and equipment failures.



Food Security

- In 2024, a 60°C heat index slashed crop yields in Pakistan, with sesame dropping by 75-80% and rice by 60-95% compared to last year.
- In 2021, over 68,000 hectares of rice in Bangladesh were destroyed by heat, affecting more than 300,000 farmers and causing \$39 million in losses.

Gendered Risks from Extreme Heat

- **Unsafe Work:** Women in informal jobs face heat-related income and productivity loss.
- **Care Burden:** Women's unpaid care work increases heat exposure and vulnerability.
- **Pregnancy Risks:** Heat raises risks of miscarriage, complications, and neonatal deaths.
- **Violence:** Rising temperatures linked to higher rates of GBV and child marriage.
- **Limited Access:** Women face more barriers to cooling, healthcare, and transport.
- **Gender and Social Norms:** Dress norms and mobility limits reduce women's ability to stay cool.



A.6 Why Include ‘Gender’ in ‘Climate Action’?

Given the disproportionate impact of climate change, it is crucial to integrate gender considerations to ensure inclusive and effective climate solutions.

Disproportionate Impact

Women are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.

E.g. By 2050, climate change may push up to 158 million more women and girls into poverty

Gender Disparities

Gender-blind interventions risk exacerbating existing gender disparities.

E.g. Women make up only 23.9% of STEM in Asia-Pacific. Gender-blind policies risk widening the gap.

Effective Climate Solutions

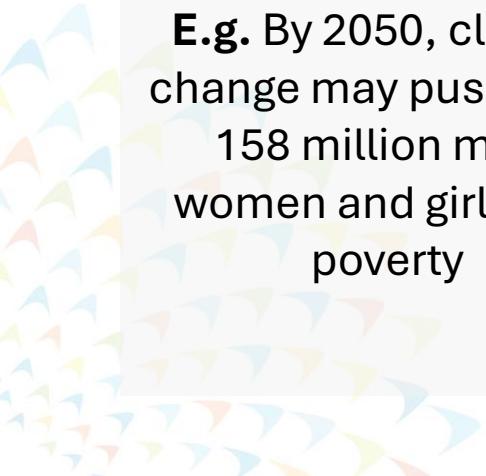
Gender-aware interventions lead to more effective climate solutions.

E.g. Women represent nearly half of the agricultural workforce in developing countries (up to 70% in South Asia), and their productivity is crucial for food security.

Accelerate Climate Actions

Women's leadership accelerates climate adaptation, mitigation, and effective resource management.

E.g. Countries with higher female representation in parliament are more likely to implement environmental policies.



THANK YOU

