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Addressing intersecting issues on gender and climate change in Central Asia

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Ways that climate change is impacting women in Central Asian Countries



- Impact is not gender-neutral and impacts women in distinct ways.
- It can exacerbate existing gender inequalities and vulnerabilities.
- Efforts to address climate change in Central Asia, need to take understand gender specific impacts, and empower women in adaptation and mitigation actions.

Water scarcity and access to clean water

- Increasing water scarcity due to changing in precipitation patterns
- Women often responsible for securing water for households (drinking, cooking, washing) and irrigation and household
- Water scarcity- women have to travel further and longer
- Safety, reduction of time for education, income generation and rest.



Agriculture and food security

- Climate change disrupts farming practices, leading to reduced crop yields and food security
- Women farmers have less access to resources: credit, land, technology and extension services
- Lack of resources constrain women from adapting to climate change and ability to recover and adapt
- Crop yield reduction- women heavily involved in agricultural livelihoods, lower yields lead to food shortages and economic hardship
- Income unpredictability
- Health and well being of livestock
- Migration- additional burdens on women to manage farms on their own



Health impacts



- Rising temperatures, changing precipitation and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events
- Heat related illness, women working outdoor and pregnant women
- Mental health impact- stress anxiety and depression aftermath climate related disasters and events
- Access to healthcare- disruption healthcare services, including reproductive health and supplies

Energy



- Energy crisis- gas and hydropower shortages affecting women disproportionately Persistent barriers for women to enter energy sector
- Energy forecasts show that electricity consumption in Central Asia to increase by 50% by 2050 due to population and economic factors
- Paris agreement requires that further development in power capacity comes from renewable sources. GHG emissions reduction requirements for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, carbon-intensive power generation.

Questions to be addressed when looking at gender and climate change?

How do gender inequalities affect the ways that women and men are affected by climate change and constrain the choices women are able to make?

How can the different needs of men and women be integrated into climate change policies?

How can we ensure women play an equal role in decision-making around climate change?

How can climate change responses provide opportunities to challenge and transform gender inequalities?

Climate change solutions that do not directly benefit women and address gender inequalities are not climate solutions



Knowledge gaps in mainstreaming gender in climate change in Central Asia

- Despite being highly vulnerable to climate change, limited attention to climate change overall, even less to gender and climate
- There is a gap in assessments of climate change impacts on the economy overall, less so for impact on women's livelihoods
- Biggest gap on climate change and health- which is needed to better understand impact of pollution on women and children, as well as heat stress.

THE GOOD NEWS: WOMEN AND GIRLS CAN OFFER BILLIONS OF SOLUTIONS



Climate resilient agriculture

Agricultural productivity is 21% lower than it could have been without climate change - yet with when women are given the same resources as men women could increase agricultural yields by up to 30 percent and reduce world hunger by 17%

Women in leadership



- Men continue to outnumber and outrank women in climate negotiations- yet women are leading on the most difficult issues
- Countries with high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.

Energy Transition



We need people with skills, such as electricians to make updates such as installing solar panels, heat pumps and electric vehicle charging stations to help the countries meet climate goals.

Women in renewable energy jobs at 32% and increasing

Women as change makers: opportunities



Industry 4.0 is set to transform work by disrupting the demand for skills within many occupations. Every job will require both digital and green skills.



Growth for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) occupations- energy transition/green economy.



Just Transition- safe transition of workers and focus on targeting female workers- providing upskilling opportunities to avoid creating more inequality.



Energy Sector- women in solar showing positive trend, can the same be done for other clean energy sectors?



Agriculture- adoption rates of resilient climate agriculture higher for women, reaching women better through extension services and credit



Transport- women breaking barriers, for example all-female e-motorbike factory in India