

INTEGRATING GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS IN ADB OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA

9-11 October 2023 • Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ADB

SYNTHESIS REPORT



SESSION 1: Climate Change is Not Gender Neutral: Understanding the Climate Change and Gender Nexus

Climate change intersects with and exacerbates gender inequalities and women's vulnerabilities.



- Rising sea levels and warmer temperature cause extreme weather changes such as droughts and floodings, which affect women's access to clean and safe water for agriculture and household and may exacerbate women's time poverty
- Water scarcity poses challenges in growing crops, results in yield losses, and causes food insecurity. Women producers have less access to productive resources and limited space to maneuver and adapt to climate change.
- Extreme heat and smog affect people's physical and mental health especially pregnant women as these may result in adverse pregnancy outcomes.
- Climate change-related disasters may disrupt public service, including important health services for women

Gender-Responsive Instruments and Tools for Climate Actions

1. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Gender responsiveness in NDC and NAP involves mainstreaming gender into climate policies and actions and governance structures that meet the needs and recognize the roles and contributions of women and men in addressing the climate crisis.



- Roadmap to integrate medium- and long-term mitigation and adaptation needs and promote women's empowerment in climate actions
- Assess differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men
- Promote women's leadership, education, and involvement in participatory decision-making processes
- Ensure women's access to resources, information, benefits and opportunities in climate initiatives
- Integrate gender perspectives in both emission reduction strategies and adaptive measures

Challenges in NDC and NAP Implementation

- Weak gender capacity of government personnel and agencies working on climate change
- Weak knowledge and understanding of climate change of government personnel and agencies involved in gender work
- Centralized governance structures restrict local authorities' functions to develop and implement local adaptation plans
- Resource constraints hinder implementation of climate actions
- Inadequate information system to develop database, and monitor and report on achievements in climate response
- Limited financing opportunities for women to invest in green technology

Civil society has a proactive role in promoting transformative gender agenda in NDCs

- Awareness raising and capacity building
- Connecting the grassroots and policy levels
- Research and analysis
- Implementation, monitoring, and assessment of mitigation and adaptation projects Caucasus

Nationally Determined Contributions

- National plan highlighting climate action as a contribution to achieve the global targets set out in the Paris Agreement
- NDCs are government commitments under the Paris Agreement
- Seventy-eight percent of NDCs integrate gender
- All developing member countries of ADB in Central and West Asia have NDCs
- In the South Caucasus countries, Georgia's aspiration towards EU integration determines the gender sensitivity and responsiveness of its NDCs.

Source: Workshop presentations



2. Vulnerability Assessment Tool

- Recognizes differences in women and men's vulnerabilities that are influenced by their access to resources and participation in decision-making
- Utilized by communities as self-diagnostic tool to identify climate risks and the communities' readiness to address these risks, which can inform decisionmakers in developing climate change responses and adaptation plans
- Has helped develop local women leaders in local councils through training on utilizing the tool and negotiating with local councils in adopting this
- Areas of assessment:



Self-organization and potential of the local community (gender marker)



Natural environment



Emergencies (gender marker)



Agriculture (gender marker)



Infrastructure, tourism, transport



Waste



Energy and energy efficiency



Water, sanitation, hygiene (gender marker)



Population health (gender marker)



Settlement environment



Proposed Gender Responsive Actions to Expand Opportunities for Women in the Green Economy

- Strengthen gender targets in NAPs and NDCs
- Ensure financing for gender actions in NAPs and NDCs
- Promote women leadership in climate negotiations to address women's lack of representation and participation in regional negotiations on climate change
- Capacitate government, civil society organizations, and communities on gender and climate change
- Develop robust information system for monitoring and reporting of progress on the ground and in-depth analysis of gender and climate change intersections
- Conduct assessments of climate change impacts on women's health and livelihoods
- Support female students' participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and women's employment in STEM-related industries
- Make climate financing accessible to women's grassroots organizations and CSOs
- Expand agricultural extension services and financing for women farmers and entrepreneurs
- Support women's participation in climate resilient agriculture, energy transition, and industries that require both digital and green skills





SESSION 2: GENDER RESPONSIVE REGIONAL INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION



At the regional level, women are pro-actively engaged in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in the following areas:

- Natural resource management
- Promotion of green entrepreneurship
- Innovation knowledge exchange

South Caucasus	Central Asia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening local engagements towards regional level partnerships and innovations led to the formation of 10 rural women’s councils (3 in Armenia, 3 in Azerbaijan, and 4 in Georgia) and capacitating them to advocate on gender and climate change concerns and develop integrated risk management plans with government and other stakeholders • Establishing 27 green social enterprises in Georgia and Armenia as support to vulnerable women while addressing environmental challenges • Providing capacity building on eco-farming and zero-waste healthy snack manufacturing • Knowledge promotion on gender and climate change through regional study tours and eco camps • Promoting synergies and digital transformation to benefit small and medium entrepreneurs, 56% of whom are women, by improving management practices and technologies, expanding their market linkages, and enhancing capacities to improve competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Central Asian Women and Youth Leadership Programme (CALP) to equip women and young leaders of the region with knowledge, skills and innovative leadership methodologies and promote their engagement in environmental decision making • Providing technical assistance to the Climate Adaptation Mitigation Programme for the Aral Sea Basin in strengthening the regional information platform on climate change and setting up a climate investment assessment mechanism • Supporting 370 women and young professionals from state environmental, water and energy sectors, non-government organizations, universities, and green businesses under the Central Asian Leadership Program of Education for Sustainable Development over the course of 13 years • Promoting women leadership in farming projects such as extracting novel wound-healing and anti-inflammatory phyto- products from Licorice root • Strengthening women’s involvement and capacity building in disaster risk reduction

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program’s “Regional Action on Climate Change: A Vision for CAREC in 2050

- Support developing member countries’ (DMCs) climate finance plans and instruments
- Increase coordination and collaboration among development partners
- Strengthen DMCs’ project preparatory capacities to integrate gender and climate change
- Facilitate access to global climate funds (GCF, GEF, CIFs, etc.)
- Build capacity building for attracting climate financing
- Provide access to finance for innovation, piloting and scaling up



SESSION 3: COUNTRY-LEVEL APPROACHES TO GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

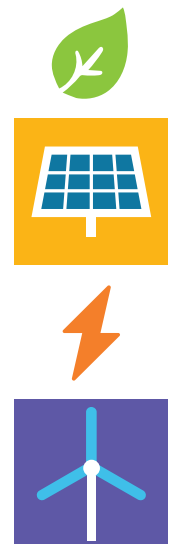
Greening the Energy Sector and Infrastructures

Country contexts vary and understanding the context, policy, and legal environment is important to design




- Climate change assessment, gender assessment, policy analysis
- Market assessment, value chain analysis
- Impact assessment

Designing gender-responsive interventions:




- Address gender stereotypes that prevent women from participating in the sector
- Work with influencers in the family (spouses, in-laws) to seek their support
- Ensure access to resources, finance, knowledge, and information
- Develop women's leadership skills
- Build a cohort of professional cadres (women are less represented as professionals in the energy sector)
- Set quotas and scholarships for women in STEM fields



Gender Equality in Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Central Asia

<p>Key features of the project</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the community-based tourism sector in Central Asia • Community-based assessment on women's engagement in the tourism sector • Energy-efficient sustainable tourism through sustainable energy production and consumption of energy
<p>Gender barriers addressed</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of gender component in energy policies • Women's limited access to natural resources • Women's limited participation in decision-making • Use of sustainable clean energy in the tourism sector
<p>Achievements in promoting gender equality</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic empowerment of women through community-based tourism • Women's access to green loans • Use of energy efficient equipment in guest houses managed by women • Capacity building of women on the use and installation of solar panels • Training of male volunteers to address reluctance of men in the communities to participate




Increasing Women's Participation in the Power Sector in Uzbekistan

Key features of the project	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting equal opportunity in employment in the power sector • Providing scholarship to women to encourage employment in the company and for promotion of female personnel • Putting women in leadership positions • Encouraging family support to ensure women are not prevented from having gainful employment
Gender barriers addressed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak participation of women in the power sector • Cultural stereotypes on women's roles in the energy sector • Use of hydropower as clean energy source
Achievements in promoting gender equality	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of gender working group/task force • Advisory council for Gender equality became operational • Increasing the number of women employees, including in managerial positions • Capacity building activities for female personnel • Cooperation with higher academic institutes to support women's technical training, 6 out of 13 students provided with scholarships were women • Participation/engagement of husbands in company sponsored activities to foster support from husbands and other family members such as mother in-law for the career development of women






Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Natural Resources and Food Security




Women's Economic Empowerment in Green Economy in Armenia

Key features of the project	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of modern technology in fields and greenhouses such as drip irrigation and in drying facilities using solar energy to produce ecologically green fruits and vegetables • Dried fruit production, beekeeping, and breadmaking using solar energy (solar panels) • Capacity building of women on maintenance of technologies used in production
Gender barriers addressed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's limited access to productive resources • Lack of financing and market opportunities for women farmers • Limited women specialists in the agriculture sector • Drought affecting non-irrigated women's production areas • Severe drought and winter affect availability of food for livestock and households
Achievements in promoting gender equality	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic empowerment of women through community-based sustainable agriculture, 28 small businesses established, 82% owned by women • Use of energy efficient equipment for women's agricultural production • Capacity building of women on climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies




Empowering Women and Girls in Mitigating the Impacts of Climate Disasters in Jacobabad, Pakistan

Key features of the project	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing local chapters of the organization that include women members and offer a range of support services for women such as in agricultural production, social services, education Supporting women farmers in operating kitchen gardens and livestock raising
Gender barriers addressed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water scarcity increases burden on and has health consequences on women as they are mainly responsible for providing/fetching water for all members of the household Women are more involved in agricultural production and exposed to extreme heat but have no control over farm income while men are involved in marketing therefore control the farm income Women in communities lack access to information on climate change Cultural expectation on how women dress that is not suitable to hot environment
Achievements in promoting gender equality	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic empowerment of women through community-based sustainable agriculture, 28 small businesses established, 82% owned by women Use of energy efficient equipment for women's agricultural production Capacity building of women on climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies

Gender Responsive and Climate Resilient Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan

Key features of the project	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving water supply through climate resilient technology Sustainable governance of water infrastructure Capacity building of water users and beneficiaries on climate adaptation
Gender barriers addressed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited participation of women in water resources management Difficulty of women in attending mixed group activities
Achievements in promoting gender equality	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although primarily an infrastructure project, it is able to support women's empowerment through women-only capacity building activities on water management and increasing women's participation in water users' associations

Strengthening Climate Change Response in Agriculture for Household Food Security

Key features of the project	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernizing irrigation by using climate smart irrigation systems in farms and kitchen gardens Sustainable governance of water infrastructure Capacity building of farmers and agricultural workers
Gender barriers addressed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's limited access to productive resources Low yield in women's production areas because of limited access to irrigation water, exacerbated by extreme weather conditions Limited income opportunities for women seasonal workers
Achievements in promoting gender equality	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has just commenced, hence, achievements are not yet observed, but it is expected to result in (i) women's economic empowerment through increased yield and income from their production areas; (ii) improved women farmer's access to productive resources and financing; (iii) enhanced skills of women farmers and seasonal agricultural workers in sustainable agricultural practices and use of climate smart technologies



SESSION 4: FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE ACTIONS

Making climate financing gender-inclusive:

- Support to climate adaptation of communities as climate and socio-economic measures should be targeted to ensure that women's burdens are not exacerbated
- Understand the larger climate context and how are women affected differently
- Enhance women's engagement in decision-making at the project level, strategic level such as designing country partnership strategies, and regional or international organizational structures
- Finance women entrepreneurs through instruments and mechanisms that break gender barriers such as focused credit line that are suitable to women's needs and paying capacity
- Bridge women to external funds, such as the Community Resilience Partnership Program (financing facility)
- Identify targets that are informed by gender analysis and address women's vulnerabilities and underlying factors of gender inequalities
- Integrate gender in hard and soft components of infrastructure projects to address gender barriers

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- Multilateral environmental trust fund with 18 implementing agencies, including ADB and UNDP
- \$5.33 billion pledged by 39 donor nations, with a 4-year replenishment cycle
- Focal areas:



biodiversity



climate change



land degradation



international waters



chemicals and waste

- Has supported the establishment of 300 protected areas globally
- Supports governments and civil society organizations through open calls for proposal submission

Gender requirements in GEF-supported projects

- Access to land by rural women
- Policy-level engagement of women
- Capacity building for women
- Strong women participation, women should comprise 48% of project beneficiaries

Source: Session 4 panel discussion.



SESSION 5: IDENTIFYING ENTRY POINTS FOR GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED ACTIONS IN SELECTED SECTORS

OUTPUT OF BREAKOUT GROUPS

Agriculture and Natural Resources



Project Title	Issues Addressed	Objectives	Project Interventions
Support for women's entrepreneurship in the creation of combined dry food and wool processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic vulnerability of women Pasture degradation Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop waste-free livestock farming Reduce pressure on pastures Climate resilience Reduce land degradation Improve economic status of women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building: women's entrepreneurship training (access to markets); training on dried food and wool processing; training women on business development and management; mentoring support to women Creation of online knowledge management portal Provision of mini-grants and equipment to women entrepreneurs
Supporting women in the sustainable use and management of forest resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access of women to the use of non-timber forest products (gender-blind and ineffective legislation) Lack of mechanisms to encourage women in forest resource management) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building on issues of assessing the state of ecosystems Creation of transparent procedures for forest management Support for women in sustainable forest management - community forestry
Greening of urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of parks Gender blind spots Low level of women's involvement in decision-making at the city level Rising temperatures (climate change) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create parks within close proximity (pocket parks) Reducing climate risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge material: conduct an assessment of the female population's access to parks (SDG 11 - access to public places within 500 meters) Launch a grant competition for women's initiatives with involvement local communities Capacity building: train women in leadership skills Support the involvement of women at the decision-making level

Education and Health



Projects/Issues	Capacity Building	Technical Assistance	Knowledge Products	Others	
EDUCATION					
Lack of girls in STEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quota for girls Scholarships Counseling STEM in schools 		+	+	+ (policy support)
Lack of safe environment in schools (health and safety)	Quality infrastructure standards (light, heat, WASH, air quality etc)	+	+		
Limited access of kids to kindergartens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile or container kindergartens Construction of kindergartens near big organizations 		+		
Climate and gender not incorporated in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated gender and climate change in curriculum in high schools and universities Integrated curriculum of science and technology Gender expertise/review of textbooks Incentives for female teachers 	+		+ TV adv, promo materials	+ (policy support)
Lack of female/male teachers in schools	Incentives for female/male teachers				+ (policy support)
Weak capacity of teachers on STEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and retraining Exchange programs Students' and teachers' mobility 	+			
Lack of scientific knowledge	Support to women in science	+ fellow exchange			+ (policy support)
Lack of gender-segregated data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational Management Information System development and operation Women in information technology 			+ surveys conduct	

Projects/Issues	Capacity Building	Technical Assistance	Knowledge Products	Others
HEALTH				
Support to migrant women	Trainings on orientation in another country for migrant women	+	+	
Reproductive health & Reduce maternal mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase female doctors and other medical staff (quota for women) Obligatory medical checks for pregnant women Family planning trainings STD/HIV awareness Sexual education 	+	+ promo materials on health related topics	+ salary increase for staff (policy support)
Phyto, veterinary labs		+	+	+ (policy support)



Energy and Transport

Project	Idea	Capacity Building	Knowledge Products	Others
ENERGY				
Hybrid Energy System Development Project	<p>WHAT: rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% renewable energy: sun, wind, water and biomass power to provide with the energy of the future (hybrid energy systems (solar + biogas)) <p>WHERE: on household level and social facilities (schools and kindergartens) with inclusive features for vulnerable groups</p> <p>HOW: installing the systems on every household levels by involving Government (we can consider PPP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Later: Citizens to buy photovoltaic panels to be installed and the state to rent these panels from its citizens afterwards. In return, people get a benefit of 1% for 10 years. The aim is to install more than 50.000 PV panels on 150 public buildings with a total investment value of USD50 millions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for women in solar panel installation and biogas energy usage Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) may be involved for imparting trainings to both male and female Female may be trained for stitching their traditional clothes to increase income or in some other entrepreneurship activates Institutional sensitivisation (government and public sector) on climate and gender issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment Feasibility studies for the project Manual on gender mainstreaming in the energy systems Training modules on installation, maintenance of the solar systems 	Policy instruments supporting Smart Villages

TRANSPORT

Eco-friendly Transport project (Modernizing transport infrastructure)	<p>Energy efficient transport</p> <p>WHAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing eco-friendly public transportation network between eco-villages to make it more transportation more efficient, and to get more people to their destinations using fewer vehicles; Encouraging cycling all over neighborhood <p>WHERE: Smart villages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master plans to develop the transport network Recruiting female drivers and building their capacities in bus driving 		
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Finance



List of Projects	Gender Actions	Target Groups	Service Providers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Green projects with a gender component Projects of women entrepreneurs in the field of ecology Digital skills training programs Monitoring of project implementation indicators for the financial sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of green and gender projects in the bank's total portfolio Reduction/decrease in the share of projects with high emissions into the atmosphere Joint projects with government agencies, microfinance organizations, local communities, large socially significant structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a database of those who need support (including data on women and social groups) - through government agencies and private sector Identify target groups who needs what support in different areas Enhance climate and financial knowledge of women Financial support to women (grants, soft loans, technical business support, consumer lending) Create online platform for knowledge sharing like self-assessment tools, success stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More vulnerable groups/housekeepers in rural area Less vulnerable groups/transitional, already in business 	<p>Joint comprehensive efforts and common strategic goal of ideally 3 main institutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Financial institutions that shares/initiates the delivery of the requirements of Paris Agreement Intermediary/supporter/ state body Financial institutions providing financial/non-financial support to the end users

Public Sector Management



Projects	Capacity Building	Technical Assistance	Knowledge Product
1. Developing inclusive & resilient social protection system in Central and West Asia Region			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Protection measures with resilient integrated solutions developed and disseminated Gender needs assessment
Strengthening Member countries capacity for developing gender inclusive adaptation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Gender Sensitive Indicators in annual development plans Capacity building of local national institutions to implement gender inclusive adaptation initiatives 	Gender responsive budgeting monitoring and reporting framework	Gender Responsive data collection
Green thinking in Governance Program: Empowering women in climate action			Gender Climate nexus policy integration

Water and Urban Services



Infrastructure Projects	Gender Actions	Capacity Building	Technical Assistance	Knowledge Product
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of drinking water supply and sanitation systems Providing city services (removal) of solid waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access of women to drinking water Involvement of women in the management structures of service operators Integrating climate and gender considerations into the organization's strategy Changing the mindset of the population in relation to water sources through awareness campaigns, with participation of women and girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upskilling staff (including all women) in the two sectors based on needs analysis Introduction of positive foreign experience, exchange of experiences/study tour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of international and local consultants for the implementation of existing and promising projects Study of financial sources for project implementation Providing support in purchasing office updated equipment for operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the international experience in the sector Assessment of structure and sectoral needs Law enforcement practice Development of modules for conducting trainings and seminars in the context of new technologies

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