
Gender inclusive climate change adaptation

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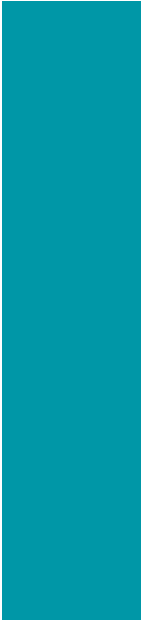
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Gender and Environment



Around the world, environmental conditions impact the lives of women and men in different ways as a result of existing inequalities, responsibilities, and roles



These differences between women and men can manifest through

- unequal land and tenure rights;
- unequal access to natural resources and assets;
- women's limited opportunities to participate in decision-making and access to basic education, markets, capital, training, and technologies;
- different vulnerabilities to disasters, climate change and exposure to air pollution and chemicals;
- women's common double burden of responsibilities inside and outside the household

What is the value of considering Gender and Environment?

- The integration of gender considerations throughout environment related actions is crucial for the **long-term sustainability** and effectiveness of such actions for both developing and developed countries
- Addressing gender-based vulnerability can **strengthen the capacity, resilience, health and development** of the society at large
- At the same time, channelling **both men's and women's skills** and knowledge will improve the outcomes of programmes and efforts made

Gendered vulnerability?

- Age, class, ethnicity, disability
- The ability to bounce back after extreme climatic events
- To reconstruct their lives
- Capacity to adapt to climate change, income sources
- Migration



It is all connected to access to economic and natural resources, information, political participation, household responsibilities

A project example – Myanmar Climate Change Alliance



Joint programme by UN Environment and UN Habitat

Background

Gender Vulnerability Assessment in the communities of Labutta Township, Myanmar

Gender Vulnerability Assessment

Communities of Labutta Township, Myanmar



A project example – Myanmar Climate Change Alliance

Findings:

1. Women's contribution to fishery and agriculture is **not recognized as formal employment**, 69% of women in Labutta township are regarded as "economically inactive", vs 26% of the men
2. Not being recognized in the formal employment, as well as lack of access to land, result in limited information, credit and other resources needed to **adapt to the changing climate**
3. Particular vulnerability of **female headed households** (15.1 percent)
4. Women are increasingly contributing to **additional income** as livelihoods are reduced
5. **Migration** is highly gendered -
6. Women are more **vulnerable to disasters**

Women contributing with additional income generating activities



What did the gender analysis result in?

- Climate change [vulnerability report](#) includes a strong gender perspective
- Central to informing the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance [climate resilience interventions](#), ensuring integrated gender responsive actions, building resilience for the whole communities
- Gender-responsive action points are included in the [Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2030](#) and [Myanmar Climate Change Policy](#) such as setting up specific guidelines on how to mainstream gender issues in climate change related policies of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and irrigation sectors.
- [Training of Government officials](#) on linkages between gender and climate change adaptation

The Gambia GCF: Gender analysis

- 20,5 Million USD, 6 years implementation
- Approved in 2016
- Gender analysis developed based on community level consultations, which helped design the project in a way that the 50% direct and indirect beneficiaries are women
 - Context
 - Roles and men and women
 - Ownership
 - Decision-making structures
 - Benefits

Gender in National Adaptation Plans

- As part of the National Adaptation Plans – Global Support Programme (NAPs-GSP) facilitated capacity development and group discussions in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Countries challenges on gender inclusive national adaptation planning

- The **intuitional capacities** and knowledge/familiarity with the topic is weak
- Many countries do not involve women's ministries or equivalent in their adaptation planning
- Some experience **political sensitivity** around the subject
- To make gender **included throughout the process** – not only part of community consultations and vulnerability assessment. Need more practical guidance
- Information sharing in terms of **data**, and some indicators are missing sex-disaggregation. Need to monitor the process and ensure no harm is done with the planning
- **Lack of coordination** and varied level of capacity, between national level planners and the local authorities on gender-sensitive adaptation planning
- Gender **parity** in policy making level

Gender in National Adaptation Plans

Countries opportunities on gender inclusive national adaptation planning

- Maldives and Papua New Guinea are **coordinating** their plans with women's ministries or equivalent
- Maldives **consulted women's groups** specifically within vulnerability assessments, since the risk was that women did not turn up to the meetings
- Mongolia coordinates their adaptation planning with a recently developed national **gender policy**
- The climate funds requirements for gender considerations can serve as an **incentive**
- Tonga shows a good example of gender mainstreamed adaptation planning and integrates existing gender action plans and strategies, as well as gender specific indicators in their "**Green Growth Framework**". Furthermore, they have consulted women's civil society organisations
- To overcome the sensitivity of gender, some countries have addressed it within "**social inclusion**" thematic sections



United Nations
Environment Programme

THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

Gender Approach for a Green Climate Fund project in Lao PDR

Presented by: Annette Wallgren, Asia & Pacific Office, UN Environment

*Developed by: Victor Tsang, Programme Officer. Gender and Safeguards Unit,
UN Environment HQ Nairobi*

THE PROJECT

Building resilience of urban populations with ecosystem-based solutions

Duration: 7 years (2018-2025)

Budget: US\$30 million

Lead agency: UN Environment

Counterpart: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

Status: Full proposal under development, expected to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund for approval in mid-2018



Challenges to mainstream gender

- **Top down (Nairobi to Vientiane to provincial governments)**
- **Urban context (gender differences less significant)**
- **Technical (more about hydrology than individuals' responses)**

The ripple effects of PARTICIPATION



Presence of UN Environment's in-house gender specialist in a fact-finding mission

Participation of female and male community member (first hand account of how flooding affects their well-being)

Presence of the Lao Women's Union in all major meetings (reaffirm their role leading the project's gender actions)

Participation of ministry officials on environment, public works... in discussing gender issues (e.g. who are the vulnerable, what can be done...)

GENDER ASSESSMENT

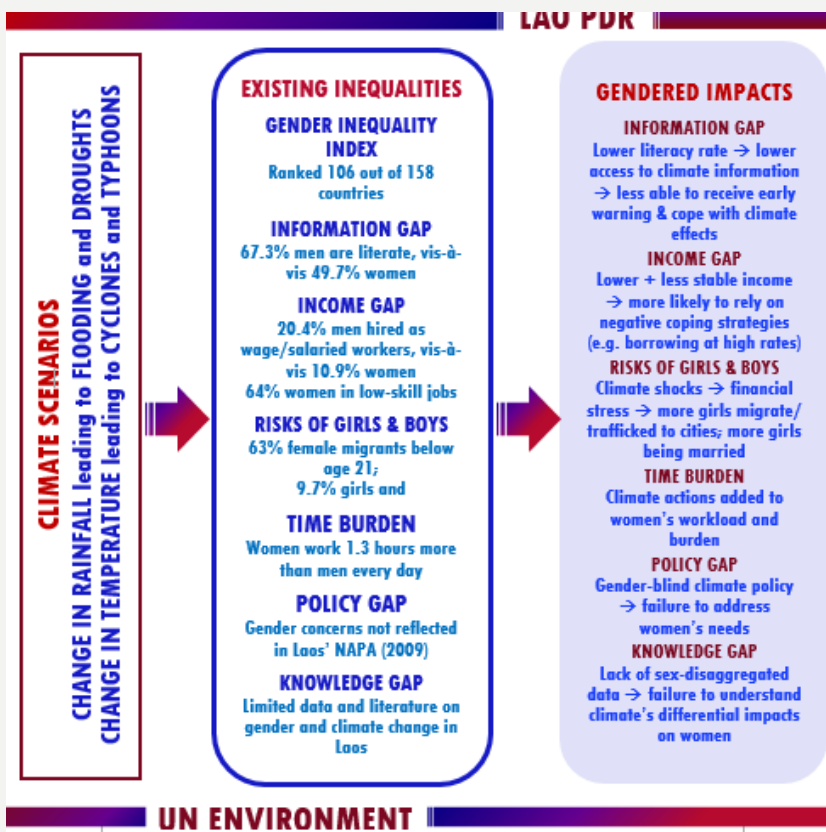
Three building blocks

1. Literature review (existing climate data, gender data, data gap)
2. On-site assessment (verify existing data, collect new data)
3. Climate-gender model (climate data + gender data = what?)



GENDER ASSESSMENT

Climate-Gender Model



Time Use Analysis

	Ms. Sai, 50 years, food vendor in market (Working every day)	Mr. Pasert, 40 years, long-distance truck driver (Working two days a week)
00:00		
01:00	Sleep	Sleep
02:00		
03:00	Wakes up; Cook food to be sold (no breakfast)	
04:00		
05:00		
06:00	Sell food in a nearby market (1km from home)	Wake up; Check stock (to be delivered); Check and maintain his vehicle
07:00		
08:00		
09:00		
10:00		
11:00		Lunch
12:00	Prepare and have lunch with family;	Drive to Vientiane (National capital of Lao PDR) (8-9 hours) for goods delivery (Come back to Luang Prabang at 11:00 the next day, 12 hours)
13:00	Relax	
14:00	Buy food ingredients from another market to be sold the next day (4km from home)	
15:00		
16:00		
17:00	Prepare food to be sold the next day;	
18:00	Prepare dinner	
19:00		
20:00	Have dinner with family	
21:00		Sleep
22:00	Sleep	
23:00		

GENDER ACTION PLAN

Key proposed actions (will include timeline and budgets)

1. Invite the Lao Women's Union to lead on the implementation of the gender actions
2. Hire gender experts during the course of the project
3. Include women in steering committee (thus making decisions)
4. Include gender criteria in recruitment and procurement
5. Provide incentives to promote women's participation
6. Provide gender training to government officials
7. Disseminate early warning messages in multiple forms
8. Include gender in education/research work
9. Sensitize men on the reasons for gender-equitable participation

Presented to the Laos' Ministry of Environment on 18 Oct 2017

CONCLUSION: PARTICIPATION IS EVERYTHING

Those closest to the problem are closest to the solution? Yes and No. Limited data were collected during the field work, for there is a lack of understanding on gender (in particular climate's gendered impacts)

However, participation raises awareness, creates legitimacy and ownership, builds partnership and strengthens political buy-in. A Gender Action Plan without buy-in is merely a document.

Such early participation has laid a good foundation for further and continuous participation throughout the project, from understanding vulnerabilities, building capacity, carrying out the ecosystem-based adaptation activities, to monitoring and evaluation.

Thank you for your participation!

For further information:

UN Environment global [gender webpage](#)

To read about the [Laos story](#)

To read about the [Myanmar story](#)

UN Environment Asia Pacific [gender webpage](#)

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