

Gender Mainstreaming Brief Bangladesh

Introduction

The rising threat of climate-related hazards is already being witnessed with increasing severity and frequency of disasters occurring in South Asia.

According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in South Asia affected 1.68 billion people, killed approximately 267,000 and caused over US\$127 billion in economic losses.

The region's endeavor to achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty is often hampered due to the impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods, food security and health. A World Bank study has warned that, without climate change adaptation, 800 million (or 44 percent) people in South Asia will be living in moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050 which will push millions of people below the poverty line.

The negative effects of extreme weather and climate events also undermine productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, and manufacturing, with limited adaptive capacity in these countries causing further constraints on their development prospects.

Overview of climate change in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change due to a combination of geographical and socio-economic factors, including its low-lying delta and coastal areas, high population

density, poverty levels, and lack of resilient infrastructure.

Rural and coastal communities have been exposed to climate-induced extreme events, such as erratic rainfall, flooding, drought, sea-level rise, cyclones and salinity intrusion. Consequently, disasters have exacerbated migration to cities, resulting in unplanned and rapid urbanization in the country.

In response, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has placed high priority on building the country's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bangladesh has identified six thematic areas, including agriculture and food security; human wellbeing; water resources; disaster risk management; and infrastructure, to invest in and mobilize climate services through corresponding programs to function within a 'multi-institutional architecture'.

Yet, institutional challenges to climate change adaptation prevail particularly in developing an integrated approach to transform climate change vulnerabilities into adaptation opportunities and mainstream them into development programs at sub-national levels.

Gender in climate resilience

Changing rainfall patterns, riverine floods and cyclones have been challenging gender roles and responsibilities in Bangladesh, as climate-induced hazards commonly increase women's burden and vulnerabilities within and outside households. In order to enable women to cope better with the climate change crisis, sustained attention of policymakers and other stakeholders to equality is important.

Women in Bangladesh are engaged in various formal and informal sectors to pursue their livelihoods. Though female labor force participation in agriculture has been declining in the country since the 1990s, agriculture still employs about 60% of women, primarily in rice cultivation and poultry farming-related activities (Sarker, 2020).

In addition to agricultural activities, women's livelihoods often depend on natural resources, including small-scale fisheries, water drawing and collection as well as sale of fuelwood.

Studies have highlighted the gender differentiated impact of climate change in Bangladesh, where women suffer the most primarily due to their limited access to resources, technology, information and credit as well as cultural norms dictating individual mobility and decision-making.

The impacts of climate change on agriculture and water sectors will not only increase women's workload, but also perpetuate existing inequities in socially constructed gender roles, thereby pushing women further towards poverty and vulnerability.

In view of these factors, successful implementation of any climate policy and strategy in the country will depend on the meaningful participation of women in the entire sphere of policy process.

CARE for South Asia Project

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) are jointly implementing a five-year (2020-2025) regional project called *Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia* with support from the World Bank.

The project's overall objective is to contribute to an enabling environment for climate resilience policies and investments in agriculture, transport, water, and policy, planning and finance sectors in South Asia.

With a regional outreach, the national-level activities will initially be implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

ADPC is implementing the second component of the project which focuses on enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient development in South Asia. It also seeks to promote the transformation of policies, standards and institutional capacities for climate-resilient development across the key sectors.

ADPC will facilitate high-level dialogues, develop climate-resilient guidelines, and promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology at national and regional levels.

Gender mainstreaming options

Although the GoB has included gender concerns in agriculture and water sector strategies as well as in the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP); the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA); and the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), women and other marginalized groups continue to be left behind in terms of accessing benefits offered by the policies equitably.

Bangladesh was one of the first countries to draft NAPA. Moreover, it has made considerable efforts to incorporate climate change into national-level planning through the Vision 2021, the Perspective Plan, and the Sixth Five-Year Plan. However, challenges related to fully integrating climate adaptation into national and sub-national planning, capacity building across sectors and ministries, and closing the gender gaps by increasing initiatives that ensure pro-poor and gender-sensitive adaptation actions still continue to impede Bangladesh's target of becoming a climate-resilient middle-income country by 2021.

In June 2020, Bangladesh took over as the leader of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), a global partnership of 48 most vulnerable



Photo by StanislavBeloglazov / Shutterstock.com

countries to climate change. This presents a unique dual opportunity for the GoB to push global climate actions in favor of climate-threatened nations as well as revisit national policies, strategies and plans to categorically benefit vulnerable people, including women.

CVF encourages countries to develop their respective Climate Prosperity Plans (CPP) with the top two priorities focused on investments on young girls and boys and minimization of transport, energy and industry sectors' dependence on fossil fuel.

Capitalizing on the ambitious targets as well as utilizing the momentum of updating the ccGAP and other key documents, CARE for South Asia project plans to proactively engage in the process of thoroughly reviewing key national policies, strategies, plans and other documents related to agriculture, water and transport sectors of Bangladesh. It is thus timely to understand and analyze the factors and processes that continue to widen the gender gap between policy intentions and outcomes. Applying a gender lens to understand why policies are still insufficient in delivering intended equitable benefits to

women is one of the main objectives of gender theme of the project.

Support to gender mainstreaming in climate resilience

Although Bangladesh has expressed commitments towards the Paris Agreement by developing ccGAP, implementation of gender-responsive climate actions still remains a challenge. With a view to mitigate such gender gaps, the CARE for South Asia project aims to support policy reforms together with strengthening institutional capacity to integrate gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation actions.

The project has espoused integrating gender perspectives in its activities as a cross-cutting theme to leverage co-benefits between climate actions and gender equality for promoting gender-responsive climate-resilient decisions, policies and investments across agriculture, water and transport sectors in Bangladesh.

Planned key activities under the gender thematic area of the project include:

- i. Review sector-specific key national climate policies and documents applying a gender lens to support promotion of gender-responsive climate resilience in agriculture, water and transport sectors;
- ii. Develop gender action plans for mainstreaming gender into climate resilient key sectors;
- iii. Support integration of gender considerations through capacity building of relevant stakeholders in developing gender-responsive climate-resilient strategies and guidelines for key sectors; and
- iv. Promoting knowledge products on gender-responsive climate action and supporting South-South learning on gender issues through existing regional climate fora for policy dialogue.

Mapping and assessing the current gender landscape concerning climate-resilient development will help identify existing challenges and opportunities with regards to mainstreaming gender into climate actions within the priority sectors of the project.

Gender action plans will be developed for these sectors to facilitate the process of gender mainstreaming. The project also plans to strengthen the institutional capacity of key stakeholders to develop and implement sector-specific and gender-responsive strategies and guidelines for climate-resilient pathways. Integration of gender in national and sub-national sectoral training curriculum is also planned as a part of the capacity development strategy.

Through the development and dissemination of several knowledge products, the project expects to raise awareness on gender-responsive climate actions, including gender budgeting.

Expected outcomes

The CARE for South Asia project, through its gender theme, plans to identify gender gaps in policy frameworks and offer policy recommendations. Identification of gaps will be conducted by reviewing and assessing key sectoral policy documents including those related to climate finance, in coordination with relevant line ministries, departments and other stakeholders.

Implemented By



Supported By



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

SM Tower, 24th Floor 979/66-70 Pahonyothin Road
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand

Tel: +66 2 298 0681-92

Fax: +66 2 298 0012

E-mail: adpc@adpc.net

www.adpc.net



www.adpc.net



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center - ADPC



@ADPCnet



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Gender Mainstreaming Brief Nepal

Introduction

The rising threat of climate-related hazards is already being witnessed with increasing severity and frequency of disasters occurring in South Asia.

According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in South Asia affected 1.68 billion people, killed approximately 267,000 and caused over US\$127 billion in economic losses.

The region's endeavor to achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty is often hampered due to the impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods, food security and health. A World Bank study has warned that, without climate change adaptation, 800 million (or 44 percent) people in South Asia will be living in moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050 which will push millions of people below the poverty line.

The negative effects of extreme weather and climate events also undermine productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, and manufacturing, with limited adaptive capacity in these countries causing further constraints on their development prospects.

Overview of climate change in Nepal

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change mainly because of its challenging topography and diversity of climate zones, fragile socio-economic conditions, and sensitive ecosystems.

In addition, poverty and social disparity as well as people's natural resources-based livelihoods, have made Nepal more vulnerable towards the impacts of climate change.

Being fully aware of the challenging tasks to build a climate resilient society, the Government of Nepal has undertaken several policies and actions to address climate change and has also been actively participating in international global efforts to respond to climate change.

Yet, institutional challenges to climate change adaptation prevail particularly in developing an integrated approach to transform climate change vulnerabilities into adaptation opportunities and mainstream them into development programs at sub-national levels.

Gender in climate resilience

In Nepal, a majority of women are engaged in a variety of agriculture-related activities ranging from land preparation to post-harvesting alongside livestock-rearing. Due to comparatively limited access to information, credit and other essential resources as well as deprivation of decision-making power, women are more likely than men to be affected by climate-related shocks and stressors. The successful implementation of any climate policy and strategy in the country will depend on meaningful participation of women in the entire sphere of policy process.

Analysis of gender in the water sector presents a similar scenario. Although Nepal's policies related to irrigation and drinking water tend to recognize gender and social inclusion as crucial aspects, women and other marginalized groups continue to be left behind in terms of accessing policy benefits equitably. Not only are women denied equal benefits of improved water

resources management and development, but are also more vulnerable to hydro-meteorological disasters.

Moreover, gender intersects with other aspects such as age, caste, class, and ethnicity, etc., which tend to interrelate with water injustice in Nepali society. It is thus timely to understand and analyze the factors and processes that continue to widen the gender gap between policy intentions and outcomes.

CARE for South Asia Project

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) are jointly implementing a five-year (2020-2025) regional project called *Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia* with support from the World Bank.

The project's overall objective is to contribute to an enabling environment for climate resilience policies and investments in agriculture, transport, water, and policy, planning and finance sectors in South Asia. With a regional outreach, the national-level activities will initially be implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

ADPC is implementing the second component of the project which focuses on enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient development in South Asia. It also seeks to promote the transformation of policies, standards and institutional capacities for climate-resilient development across the key sectors.

ADPC will facilitate high-level dialogues, develop climate-resilient guidelines, and promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology at national and regional levels.

Gender mainstreaming options

Following the promulgation of the new constitution in 2015, Nepal has been revisiting a number of policies, including those related to climate change. In 2019, Nepal endorsed the Climate Change Policy 2019 and the Environment Protection Act 2019 in line with the new federal governance structure established by the new constitution. In addition, Nepal recently submitted the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) 2020 to the Paris Agreement outlining targets to be achieved by 2030 in terms of reducing emission and supporting vulnerable communities to adapt to the climate change impacts.

While Nepal is expected to be showing progress in terms of implementation of climate policies with regards to priority sectors, such as climate-resilience and low-carbon development, ecosystem-based adaptation and resource efficiency, climate-smart technology and climate financing, the country needs to take significant additional actions to meet the sectoral targets as set under the Paris Agreement.

Such demands point at the policy design and reform-tracking mechanism in the government machinery and pave the way for projects offering policy analysis and make recommendations in line with previously made commitments.

Utilizing this momentum of policy process rolling out in Nepal, as well as acknowledging the importance of gender integration therein, CARE for South Asia project plans to critically review key national policies, strategic plans and other documents related to agriculture, water, and transport, by applying a gender lens to understand why they are still insufficient in delivering intended equitable benefits to women.



Support to gender mainstreaming in climate resilience

Despite Nepal being a signatory to many international agreements and treaties on climate change and having introduced specific gender-related roadmaps such as Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), implementation of gender-responsive climate actions remains a challenge.

With a view to mitigate such gaps, the project aims to support policy reforms together with strengthening institutional capacity to integrate gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation actions.

The project has espoused integrating gender perspectives in its activities as a cross-cutting theme to leverage co-benefits between climate actions and gender equality for promoting gender-responsive climate-resilient decisions, policies and investments across agriculture, water, and transport sectors in Nepal.

Planned key activities under the gender thematic area of the project include:

- i. Review sector-specific key national climate policies and documents applying a gender lens to support the promotion of gender-responsive climate resilience in agriculture, water, and transport sectors;
- ii. Develop gender action plans for mainstreaming gender into climate resilient key sectors;
- iii. Support integration of gender considerations through capacity building of relevant stakeholders in developing gender-responsive climate resilience strategies and guidelines for key sectors; and
- iv. Promote knowledge products on gender-responsive climate actions and support South-South learning on gender issues through existing regional climate fora for policy dialogue.

Expected outcomes

CARE for South Asia project aims to promote gender-responsive climate resilient policies in agriculture, water, and transport sectors of Nepal. The project plans to review key policies, plans, strategies and other documents pertaining to these sectors, identify gaps and offer policy recommendations towards mainstreaming gender perspectives in climate-resilient development and investments.

In order to facilitate the implementation of these policies, the project also aims to devise gender-responsive action plans for climate-smart and resilient agriculture, water, and transport sectors.

In addition, the project plans to strengthen the institutional capacity of key stakeholders to support development and implementation of sector-specific and gender-responsive strategies and guidelines for climate-resilient pathways. Integration of gender in national and sub-national sectoral training curriculum is also planned as a part of the capacity development strategy.

Through the development and dissemination of several knowledge products, the project expects to raise awareness on gender-responsive climate actions, including gender budgeting.

Implemented By



Supported By



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

SM Tower, 24th Floor 979/66-70 Pahonyothin Road
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand

Tel: +66 2 298 0681-92

Fax: +66 2 298 0012

E-mail: adpc@adpc.net

www.adpc.net



www.adpc.net



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center - ADPC



@ADPCnet



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Gender Mainstreaming Brief Pakistan

Introduction

The rising threat of climate-related hazards is already being witnessed with increasing severity and frequency of disasters occurring in South Asia.

According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in South Asia affected 1.68 billion people, killed approximately 267,000 and caused over US\$127 billion in economic losses.

The region's endeavor to achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty is often hampered due to the impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods, food security and health. A World Bank study has warned that, without climate change adaptation, 800 million (or 44 percent) people in South Asia will be living in moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050 which will push millions of people below the poverty line.

The negative effects of extreme weather and climate events also undermine productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, and manufacturing, with limited adaptive capacity in these countries causing further constraints on their development prospects.

Overview of climate change in Pakistan

With an economically and culturally diverse population living in different climate zones, topographies, and ecosystems, Pakistan is especially vulnerable to weather and other effects of climate change including, sea

intrusion, erratic rainfall, glacial melting, rising temperatures and drought, etc.

As noted in Pakistan's Initial National Communication on Climate Change, there is a strong need to improve information sharing, education and training, as well as technical and scientific research in order to articulate an effective adaptation plan. In recent years, the country has undertaken policies and actions to address climate change and has also been actively participating in global efforts to respond to climate change.

Yet, institutional challenges to climate change adaptation prevail particularly in developing an integrated approach to transform climate change vulnerabilities into adaptation opportunities and mainstream them into development programs at sub-national levels.

Gender in climate resilience

Women constitute 49% of Pakistan's population, and make up 20% of the labor force, primarily engaged in informal sector. The Labor Force Survey 2017-18, Pakistan indicates that 67 percent women are engaged in agriculture, followed by 16 percent in manufacturing and 14 percent in community and personal services.

Gender inequality and gender norms continue to exist in every sphere of women's lives in Pakistan. In addition to constraints like small land holdings, integrated type of farming system and limited irrigation facilities; gender-specific limitations, such as lack of knowledge about improved farming technologies, limited women extension service and access to credit, etc. hinder agriculture production (FAO, 2015. Women in Agriculture in Pakistan).

As a result of the persistent gender inequalities, climate impacts affect women disproportionately. At the same time, they play a crucial role in climate actions, particularly in adaptation at the local level where benefits are more visible.

Given the above factors, successful implementation of any climate policy and strategy in the country will depend on meaningful participation of women in the entire sphere of policy processes.

CARE for South Asia Project

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) are jointly implementing a five-year (2020-2025) regional project called *Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia* with support from the World Bank.

The project's overall objective is to contribute to an enabling environment for climate resilience policies and investments in agriculture, transport, water, and policy, planning and finance sectors in South Asia. With a regional outreach, the national-level activities will initially be implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

ADPC is implementing the second component of the project which focuses on enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient development in South Asia. It also seeks to promote the transformation of policies, standards and institutional capacities for climate-resilient development across the key sectors.

ADPC will facilitate high-level dialogues, develop climate-resilient guidelines, and promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology at national and regional levels.

Gender mainstreaming in CARE for South Asia Project

Pakistan's Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy 2014-2030 has highlighted gender dimensions of climate risk and resilience by indicating Pakistan's commitment to support the integration of gender concerns into climate change adaptation actions. This will be achieved by countering the disproportionate burden of climate change on women and ensuring their critical role in delivering climate change plans and strategies. Though the Framework has espoused gender integration in climate change, implementation of gender-responsive climate action remains a challenge.

Pakistan, in coordination with several stakeholders, has been making considerable efforts in developing its Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) to fulfill the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement. It is expected that a formal launch of the ccGAP will sustain the momentum towards effective implementation of the Framework actions as well as promotion of gender-responsive climate actions.

In January 2021, Sindh Province's legislative assembly passed an amendment to the Sindh Water Management Bill 2018 to ensure women's representation in around 45,000 water course associations, over 350 farmer organizations and 14 area water boards of the province.

Utilizing this momentum of policy process rolling out in Pakistan as well as acknowledging the importance of gender integration therein, the CARE for South Asia project aims to review the latest policy developments related to agriculture and water sectors of Pakistan by applying gender lens to understand why they are still insufficient in delivering intended equitable benefits to women.



Photo by Hussain Warraich / Shutterstock.com

Support to gender mainstreaming in climate resilience

Having ratified the UNFCCC in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, Pakistan's adoption of the National Climate Change Policy and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy in 2012 offered comprehensive frameworks for climate policy goals and actions. The Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy 2014-2030 promotes preparation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), future national communications to the UNFCCC and sub-national adaptation action plans.

With a view to mitigate gaps in climate policy, planning and implementation in select sectors, CARE for South Asia project aims to support policy reforms together with strengthening institutional capacity to integrate gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation actions. A review of current policy settings is expected to assist the government in achieving its prior commitments and previously set targets.

The project has espoused integrating gender perspectives in its activities as a cross-cutting theme to leverage co-benefits between climate actions and gender equality for promoting gender-responsive climate-resilient decisions, policies and investments across agriculture and water sectors in Pakistan.

Planned key activities under the gender thematic area of the project include:

- i. Review sector-specific key climate policies and documents by applying a gender lens to support the promotion of gender-responsive climate resilience in agriculture and water sectors, with specific focus on Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh provinces;
- ii. Develop gender action plans to mainstream gender into climate-resilient agriculture and water resources management sectors;
- iii. Support integration of gender considerations through capacity building of relevant stakeholders in developing gender-responsive climate resilient

strategies and guidelines for key sectors;
and

- iv. Promote knowledge products on gender-responsive climate action and support South-South learning on gender issues through existing regional climate fora for policy dialogue.

Expected outcomes

The project plans to identify gender gaps in policy frameworks in order to offer policy recommendations. Identification of gaps will be conducted by critically reviewing and assessing sectoral policy documents including those related to climate finance, in coordination with relevant line ministries, departments and other stakeholders. Mapping and assessing the current gender landscape concerning climate-resilient development, covering agriculture and water sectors, will help identify the existing challenges and opportunities with regards to mainstreaming gender into climate actions within these sectors.

Gender action plans will be developed for key sectors to facilitate the process of gender mainstreaming. The project plans to strengthen the institutional capacity of key stakeholders to support the development and implementation of sector-specific and gender-responsive strategies and guidelines for climate-resilient pathways. Integration of gender in national and sub-national sectoral training curriculum is also planned as a part of the capacity development strategy.

Through the development and dissemination of several knowledge products, the project expects to raise awareness on gender-responsive climate actions, including gender budgeting.

Implemented By



Supported By



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

SM Tower, 24th Floor 979/66-70 Pahonyothin Road
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand

Tel: +66 2 298 0681-92

Fax: +66 2 298 0012

E-mail: adpc@adpc.net

www.adpc.net



www.adpc.net



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center - ADPC



@ADPCnet



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)