

A photograph of five women walking away from the camera on a sandy beach towards the ocean. They are carrying large green and white plastic bags, likely filled with fish. The women are wearing traditional headwraps and patterned dresses. In the background, several sailboats are visible on the water under a clear sky. The image has a teal color overlay.

UNDP's Continuing Contributions to Advancing Gender Equality in Climate Action through NDCs

ABOUT UNDP

UNDP's work on climate change spans more than 140 countries and USD \$3.7 billion in investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures since 2008. With the goal to foster ambitious progress towards resilient, zero-carbon development, UNDP has also supported the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by working with countries on achieving their climate commitments or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

THE UNDP NDC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The NDC Support Programme provides technical support for countries to pursue a “whole-of-society”, integrated approach that strengthens national systems, facilitates climate action and increases access to finance for transformative sustainable development. The programme helps countries address these financial barriers by deploying a structured approach for scaling up sectoral investments and putting in place a transparent, enabling investment environment. Beyond direct country support, UNDP facilitates exchanges and learning opportunities on NDC implementation at the global and regional level by capitalizing on our close collaboration with the UNFCCC and other strategic partners.

GENDER INITIATIVE

Coordinating and connecting the interlinked processes of climate change and gender equality, by using NDCs as a platform, offers an opportunity to promote inclusive and successful development outcomes. The NDC Support Programme is supporting the work in 17 countries to ensure that gender equality aspects are factored into the NDC processes by leveraging analysis, strengthening institutional mechanisms, ensuring gender-responsive climate actions and disseminating best practices to enhance national-level capacities. =

The Programme, which works in contribution to the NDC Partnership, is generously supported by the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union and the Government of Spain.

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INTRODUCTION

The UN has developed a Joint Approach to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. This Approach provides clear guidance and direction for a joint UN effort on NDCs.¹ Three objectives make up the Joint Approach, in short:

- i. Support countries to identify key policy, governance and finance barriers so they can **accelerate** current NDC implementation.
- ii. Strengthen efforts to develop more **ambitious** next generation NDCs to pursue efforts to limit warming.
- iii. **Mobilize society** to call for climate action from their government.

Gender equality is an essential aspect of “leaving no one behind”, one of the guiding principles of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, UNDP’s work on raising ambition, accelerating actions and mobilizing societies in the NDC process requires integration of gender equality considerations in order to achieve multiplier effects on other SDGs². With its role as an integrator, UNDP is driving the UN System’s programmatic support and providing the necessary operational capacities for NDC implementation.³

¹ Driven by the UN Climate Core Group UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC and WMO, and bringing in other UN Agencies, as needed.

² UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021: <https://undocs.org/DP/2018/21>

³ Message from UNDP Administrator to UNDP Resident Representatives, March 28, 2019.

The Paris Agreement is a global framework “to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. (UNFCCC)



UNDP | Asia Pacific

SECTION 1

1.1. MAKING THE CASE: GENDER EQUALITY AND NDCS

Climate change is the most important issue facing the world today⁴ while achieving gender equality is one of the unfinished business of our time, and one of the greatest human rights challenges in the world.⁵

Gender equality is included in the Paris Agreement as being integral to social transformation and climate action. Besides being a fundamental human right, advancing gender equality and women's leadership in climate action is essential to reach climate transformational pathways to tackle the climate crisis and ensure social justice. UNDP realizes the need for all 'on-board' to act as proactive agents to meet NDC targets and deliver climate-resilient development. The mistakes of the past cannot be repeated, where women (as a group) were ignored in mainstream policy, marginalized, or only seen as vulnerable. There is a broad understanding for the need to support strengthening women's roles and ensuring the mobilization of all capacities to address climate change.

Climate action provides an unprecedented opportunity to unlock massive economic and social benefits that can help us achieve the SDGs.⁶ The impacts of climate change disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable, who are left behind. Evidence shows that the poorest are often women, since 122 women between the ages of 25 and 34 live in poor households for every 100 men of the same age group.⁷ There is a dedicated SDG on gender (SDG 5), and gender equality is considered an accelerator for achieving all the SDGs.⁸ SDG gender indicators crosscut climate indicators and vice versa. Therefore, linking climate change response to the sustainable development agenda requires an inclusive dual approach of both gender-responsive mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure progress already made in support of development gains can be protected, and that future efforts will not be undermined.

The Lima work programme on gender was agreed by Parties to enhance the implementation of their previous decisions to advance gender balance and integrate gender considerations into the work of Parties and the secretariat in implementing the Convention and Paris Agreement, to achieve gender-responsive climate policy and action. (UNFCCC)

⁴ UN Secretary-General António Guterres: UN Climate Summit in 2019 <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climatesummit-2019.shtml>

⁵ UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/>

⁶ Resources on gender-mainstreaming and sustainable development:
• The World Economic Forum (2020): **Global Gender Gap Report**
• McKinsey and Company (2015) **The Power of Parity: How Advancing Women's Equality can add \$12 Trillion to Global Growth.**
• ILO (2019) **Women in Business and Management: The business case for change.**
• Gallup World Poll and ILO (2017) **Towards a better future for women and work: Voices of women and men.**
• UN Women and UNDP (2018) **Gender Equality as an Accelerator to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.**
• UN Women and UN DESA **Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Gender Snapshot 2019**
• IMF (2016) **Trends in Gender Equality and Women's Advancement.** Stotsky, Shibuya Kolovich & Kebhaj
• Mary Robinson Foundation (2015) **Women's Participation - An Enabler of Climate Justice**
• UN Women (2019) **Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020. Families in a Changing World.**
• UNDP (2019) **Gender and NDCs: Country Progress and Key Findings**

⁷ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/no-70-world-s-poor-aren-t-women-doesn-t-mean-poverty-isn-t-sexist>

⁸ UNDP & UN Women (2018) **Gender Equality as an Accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals, Discussion Paper** <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-as-an-accelerator-for-achieving-the-sdgs.html>

Women and girls play a critical role in sectors affected by climate change and have used their knowledge to lead in adaptation and mitigation efforts. Politicians, leaders and others now appreciate that supporting the empowerment of women can spur productivity and economic growth. Compelling evidence is emerging that emphasizes the importance of gender equality and women's agency, not only to boost economic growth, but to contribute to broader development outcomes.⁹ Women and girls also represent half of the world's population and, therefore, also half of its potential.¹⁰ Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms in many countries.

A 'business as usual' model where gender perspectives are disregarded, is likely to reinforce existing inequalities and limit opportunities, including for enhancing adaptive capacities. Achieving a country's NDC targets requires measures so that all different population groups, including women, can adapt to climate change, strengthen their resilience, and help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. An inclusive approach ensures that marginalized groups - the least well-off households, small-scale producers, or the most deprived urban and rural regions - are included in this process. Otherwise, this can result in unintended, negative changes, or reversal of development gains from recent years.

9 Morched, S. and Jarboui, A. (2018) Does female entrepreneurship add in economic growth? Evidence from twenty-five countries. *Journal of Academic Finance*, 9(2), pp.20-35.

10 <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/>

The Gender Action Plan (GAP), created under the Lima work programme on gender, seeks to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation and promote gender-responsive climate policy and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Convention and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels. (UNFCCC)

1.2 GENDER EQUALITY AS A CATALYST FOR FASTER, BOLDER AND INCLUSIVE NDCS

The global transition to zero-carbon and climate-resilient development can only succeed with transformational change on the societal level. The NDC process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) offers a unique opportunity for integrating gender responsive measures at scale. In order to (i) accelerate NDC implementation, (ii) raise ambition and (iii) mobilize societies, UNDP is supporting countries on systematically addressing gender inequalities.

1.2.1 ACCELERATION

Structural inequalities can affect the acceleration of NDC implementation. Apart from physical infrastructure, increasing investments in social infrastructure are needed for acceleration.¹¹ Given that in no country in the world men and women provide an equal share of unpaid care work,¹² investments in childcare, elder care, health and education services would allow more time for women's engagement in actions to address climate change.

- **Public transport.** Travel options do not always match the needs of women. For instance, pricing or infrastructure needs to accommodate women's travel patterns, safety concerns and typical responsibilities such as childcare and shopping. If women are

11 Social infrastructure includes places where it is possible to make connections with other people and be part of a community that can put in place community responses to climate change. Public investment is often required to facilitate amenities where such social networking takes place.

12 https://www.ilo.org/public/documents/publication/wcms_633135

excluded over an extended period, it is unlikely that planning initiatives will develop in a way that suits them.¹³ Women's voice in transport planning and management thus helps to ensure their needs are on the agenda.

- **Migration, land use and urban planning.** Climate migration occurs mainly internally, especially for slow onset processes¹⁴. Countries need to think ahead and plan migration management, in particular to nearby cities. Urban sprawl and slums often create greater risks for women as they carry the responsibility of sourcing clean water or face dangers from a lack of street lighting.¹⁵ Women living in large cities across the Americas, Asia, and Africa, face gender-based violence, gender discrimination, and housing insecurity.¹⁶ Increasing investment in physical infrastructure such as public transport infrastructure can connect remote regions, and ensure easier access to public services for citizens.
- **Agriculture.** Women comprise on average of 43 per cent of the agricultural workforce in developing

countries.¹⁷ Even with climate change, evidence indicates that agricultural transformation and male out-migration can in some cases create new wage employment opportunities for women. However, gender-based constraints such as land tenure, climate information, advice, climate services must be overcome for women to successfully implement NDC measures and gain from high value export crops.¹⁸

In order to accelerate current NDC implementation and avoid backsliding on any development gains, a range of barriers (policy, governance and finance) need to be identified and addressed in the context of gender equality considerations. This requires **improved coordination mechanisms** for all line ministries with a focus on building institutional capacities at the horizontal and vertical levels on gender-responsive climate action. Gender equality must also be integrated in national climate change plans and policies, NDC implementation and investment plans, long-term strategies and transparency frameworks.

1.2.2 AMBITION

Women's leadership at the community and at political levels is necessary for ambitious NDC implementation measures. Bold, transformational changes require the engagement of women, - the other half of the population - who will use their knowledge to lead in mitigation efforts, such as driving the demand for renewable energy at the household and community levels for lighting, cooking and

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- 13 Richards, J. (2012) *The Sceptical Feminist (RLE Feminist Theory): A Philosophical Enquiry*. Routledge
- 14 IOM: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/06/lets-talk-about-climate-migrants-not-climate-refugees/>
- 15 Uddin, N. (2018) Assessing urban sustainability of slum settlements in Bangladesh: Evidence from Chittagong city. *Journal of Urban Management*, 7(1), pp.32-42.
 Frumkin, H., Frank, L. and Jackson, R.J. (2004) *Urban sprawl and public health: Designing, planning, and building for healthy communities*. Island Press.
 Bloom, D.E., Canning, D. and Fink, G. (2008) *Urbanization and the wealth of nations*. Science, 319(5864), pp.772-775.
 Kamal, M.M., 2018. Water and Sanitation Practices among the Migrant Slum Dwellers: A Sociological Study in Sylhet City. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 5(10).
 Mwititi, F. and Goulding, C. (2018) Strategies for community improvement to tackle poverty and gender issues: An ethnography of community based organizations ('Chamas') and women's interventions in the Nairobi slums. *European Journal of Operational Research*, 268(3), pp.875-886
- 16 Mayra Gómez, S.G. (2008). *Women, Slums and Urbanisation -Examining the Causes and Consequences*. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) Women and Housing Rights Programme

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- 17 Raney, T., Anríquez, G., Croppenstedt, A., Gerosa, S., Lowder, S.
- 18 DFID (2014) *Agriculture and Women*. DFID Agriculture and Growth Evidence Paper Services. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/318355/Ag_and_women_final.pdf



productive use solutions. Women are also more aware of climate change, they are more likely to support environmental regulations and are better informed about the science behind melting ice caps and rising seas.¹⁹ In Nicaragua, women practicing agro-forestry associated a greater number of household uses with on-farm trees than men, and were more likely to value fruit trees in comparison to men.²⁰

Integrating gender in the NDC process allows for the mainstreaming at a much larger scale, a systemic scale. Gender-responsive measures are mainstreamed into NDC sectors that may eventually cover the whole economy, rather than just isolated projects or policies. Gender is also integrated into all aspects ranging from governance, policy, planning, implementation, finance and monitoring, contributing to countries' capacity development on all fronts. This creates an important potential for a momentum for advancing both gender equality and climate action.

Significant benefits can be reaped from the economic impact of investing in gender equality in labour force participation and education.²¹ Interventions that focus on gender equality in the labour market and education can raise global GDP by 3.6 percent, or \$4.4 trillion (with highest impacts on GDP in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia). Economic models also indicate that such interventions would reduce the share of the

global population living in extreme poverty by 0.5 percentage points (with the most pronounced drop of 0.7 percentage points in sub-Saharan Africa).²²

- **Energy.** Globally, almost 3 billion people depend on fuel wood to meet their domestic energy needs. Almost 90 percent of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa use fuel wood forms of energy.²³ A research programme from ENERGIA (2019) found that energy policies that do not explicitly target women often result in inequitable access to energy services for men and women.²⁴
- **Solar for Agriculture.** In Nepal, ambitious women's farmer groups are using solar-powered water pumps for agricultural irrigation, which helps increase cropping intensity, productivity and income, via the introduction of new crops such as vegetables, wheat and maize and legumes. These solar irrigation systems have reduced farmer's dependency on rainwater and enabled crop diversification, especially during the pre-monsoon and dry season.²⁵

22 UNDP & UN Women (2018) Gender Equality as an Accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals, Discussion Paper. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-as-an-accelerator-for-achieving-the-sdgs.html>

23 IEA (2017) Energy Access Outlook 2017: From Poverty to Prosperity. Paris: International Energy Agency.
Bailis, R., Drigo, R., Ghilardi, A. and Masera, O. (2015) The carbon footprint of traditional woodfuels. *Nature Climate Change*, 5(3), p.266.
Scheid, A., Hafner, J.M., Hoffmann, H.K., Kächele, H., Uckert, G.B., Sieber, S. and Rybak, C. (2019) Adapting to Fuelwood Scarcity: The Farmers' Perspective. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 3

24 ENERGIA (2019) Gender in the transition to sustainable energy for all: From evidence to inclusive policies. ENERGIA state that energy policies must be aligned to women's as well as men's energy needs, their assets, skills, limitations and capabilities, and existing gender norms https://www.energia.org/cm2/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Gender-in-the-transition-to-sustainable-energy-for-all_From-evidence-to-inclusive-policies_FINAL.pdf

25 Khatri-Chhetri, A. and Chanana, N. (2017) Women's groups reaping the benefits of solar energy for irrigation in Nepal's Climate-Smart Villages. CCAFS Climate-Smart Agriculture Learning Platform, South Asia CSALP South Asia Quarterly Newsletter September 2017. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319666133_Women%27s_groups_reaping_the_benefits_of_solar_energy_for_irrigation_in_Nepal%27s_Climate-Smart_Villages

19 <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/gender-differences-in-public-understanding-of-climate-change/>

20 Gumucio, T., Twyman, J. and Clavijo, M. (2017) Gendered perspectives of trees on farms in Nicaragua: Considerations for agroforestry, coffee cultivation, and climate change. The survey was of 271 households.

21 UNDP & UN Women (2018) Gender Equality as an Accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals, Discussion Paper. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-as-an-accelerator-for-achieving-the-sdgs.html>



In order to raise ambition, high-level political engagement is critical for identifying untapped opportunities in existing NDC measures. As NDCs are an important tool for delivering national development priorities, gender needs to be included early on in planning these opportunities through programme design that supports equitable growth.

1.2.3 MOBILIZATION

Political and public debate on climate change, which involves all parts of society, including women, can lead to better informed and politically acceptable action on climate. Although there is increased awareness on climate change, awareness among citizens about their national NDC and implementation process needs to improve to mobilize collective action. Similarly, awareness about how climate change affects men and women, and what role they can play in the process to address climate change is still low. For example, while natural disasters such as droughts, floods and storms tend to sharpen awareness on climate change, the fact that disasters can result in more female mortalities than male, and tend to kill women at a younger age, especially those of lower socioeconomic status, often remains elusive.²⁶

- **Effective Participation.** Engagement with women's groups, who may not yet be involved in decision-making circles, is necessary to increase support on ambitious gender-responsive climate action. Awareness of women about their entitlements,

and the government's responsibility can help move gender equality debates higher up on the policy agenda. Ultimately the goal is to ensure that the reduction of inequality forms a critical part of the NDC implementation strategies.

- **Public Finance.** Public expenditure allocations to implement carbon-neutral economy transitions can be important tools for promoting equality and social justice. Changes without equity considerations can increase inequality and poverty, thus raising the risk of public opposition to the proposed measures and social unrest. Thus, better engagement of women's organizations and their grassroots-level knowledge can result in better informed climate policies and actions, and more effective outreach to promote acceptance of any changes in public expenditure allocations.
- **Advocacy and Education.** Facilitating diffusion of information relating to climate change and gender should also be targeted at non-state actors and with a focus on young women. Four in 10 people, 42 percent of the global population are aged under 25. Nearly half of the world's young live in Sub-Saharan Africa.²⁷ This provides an unprecedented opportunity of change for the next generation.

In order to mobilize society around a gender-responsive NDC process, countries need to develop a holistic, **gender-sensitive advocacy strategy for NDC implementation.** The core of any communications strategy focuses on women's agency as a critical and necessary part of any transformative approaches to climate change.

²⁶ Enarson, E. P. (2012). Women confronting natural disaster: From vulnerability to resilience. Boulder, CO: Lynne Reiner Publishers. p. 245

Also Sohrabizadeh, S., Tourani, S. and Khankeh, H.R. (2014) The gender analysis tools applied in natural disasters management: a systematic literature review. PLoS currents, 6.

²⁷ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/08/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-worlds-young-people-in-7-charts/>; and page 44 of the World Bank's Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2017: From World Development Indicators

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreamhandle/10986/26306/9781464810800.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>



UNDP | India

SECTION 2

2.1 HOW UNDP HAS SUPPORTED GENDER EQUALITY IN CLIMATE CHANGE

UNDP along with its partners has been providing technical assistance to support the integration of gender equality in national climate actions. We are also engaging in advocacy at the global level and contributing to international processes and commitments, such as the **Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender** and its **Gender Action Plan**. UNDP is thus bridging the international level with the national and community-level work, utilizing its country experience to advocate for the importance of including gender equality in climate actions.

With a focus on countries achieving their own solutions to national development challenges in the face of a changing climate, UNDP has an extensive portfolio of supporting countries' efforts to:

- mainstream gender within climate policies and legal frameworks,
- increase women's economic empowerment and leadership in decision making and
- build capacities of institutions to better address gender equality in climate actions.

UNDP has been involved in the **integration of gender equality aspects in national climate plans and policies** so that women's needs and contributions

in climate actions can be accounted for. UNDP has played a role in **improving women's access to and control over assets and resources**, such as rights to land, which have positive effects on women's productivity and lead to higher income. In addition, UNDP has been supporting the **advancement of women's economic empowerment**, such as new tools and techniques related to farming, and adaptation sectors, along with new markets and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Working to **ensure women's leadership and decision-making in nature-based solutions** has been a long time focus of UNDP, leading to reducing gender gaps in natural resource management in some instances. Additionally, the organization has been **building capacities of institutions**, including national-level decision makers, for more gender-responsive climate action, recognising that gender mainstreaming is not primarily a technical exercise in programming for climate, but it has fundamental implications for an institution as a whole.

Therefore, developing dedicated institutional capacities with competence for gender equality and gender mainstreaming in climate action is essential for effectively and efficiently delivering results that enhance both synergy and impacts.

Overall, UNDP's efforts have focused on **addressing women's structural constraints**. This way, women can (a) more actively participate throughout the policy and planning cycle of climate actions, (b) enjoy improved access to technology, finance and markets to build resilience and embark on the transition to a low carbon economy.



UNDP | Lao PDR

SECTION 3

3.1 MOVING FORWARD: UNDP'S APPROACH ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE NDCs


This section outlines UNDP's three-pronged approach and methodology to integrate gender in NDC planning and implementation²⁸. This experience will inform the cyclical process of NDC enhancement by building upon countries' existing efforts for more systematic gender-mainstreaming. UNDP's focus on effective governance, inclusive planning and integrated policy frameworks are mutually reinforcing, with the approach and methodology emerging from the analysis of NDCs and gender in 2016.²⁹ Sixty-five NDCs (40 percent of the total) made at least one reference to gender equality or women. Thirty-five countries referred to women's role in adaptation but without specific mention of key sectors or women's roles, only 18 countries recognized the role of women in mitigation primarily in relation to energy emissions, sustainable or biomass energy, and livestock. The insufficient, non-specific inclusion of gender equality underscored the need to support countries to translate gender equality intentions into concrete actions and policy and informed UNDP's gender work on NDCs.

During the initial preparation of NDCs, some of the gaps and lack of detailed information on gender which UNDP is supporting countries to address were mainly due to:

- i. The lack of readily available gender information (including a lack of gender disaggregated data) during the development of the NDCs, resulting in a limited understanding of impacts of climate on men and women.
- ii. The lack of coordination between climate change units/ ministries of environment and gender institutions.
- iii. The limited participation of women's organizations and civil society organizations working on the climate change policy process.

3.1.1 GENDER ANALYSIS

Addressing the paucity of gender information requires a thorough look at how women and men are affected by climate change and decarbonization, as well as the hurdles they face in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Gender analysis is the critical starting point for gender-mainstreaming in the NDC process, as it **assesses the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change** in key climate related sectors and identifies where inequalities and gender gaps exist. Thus, as part of their preliminary activity, UNDP has been supporting countries in conducting a gender analysis in priority NDC sectors such as agriculture, transport or energy.



Ghana completed a **gender analysis** for the key NDC sectors energy and agriculture. A gender mainstreaming toolkit, which will have smart indicators for NDC sectors will be developed and targeted capacity building for key staff will be established. In addition, Ghana is setting up a gender and climate change sub-committee under the National Climate Change Steering Committee to facilitate the coordination of gender sensitive implementation of the NDCs.

²⁸ This approach has been piloted in 10 countries under the NCD Support Programme.

²⁹ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-in-national-climate-action--planning-for-gender-.html>

The analysis also provides an **opportunity to engage different stakeholders** who can utilize the information for the decision-making process to inform or influence climate policies that interrelate with other development priorities.

Overall, the analysis, including the recommendations, can **inform better planning and implementation** of countries' climate actions and provide guidance on developing a more ambitious next generation of NDCs. This allows for a more systematic integration of gender in the NDC process.

3.1.2 GOVERNANCE (INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS)

This approach addresses the lack of coordination between respective ministries. Support in the area of **effective governance** for addressing gender equality often requires **better coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements** across government. When supporting countries to integrate gender equality in NDC planning, UNDP encourages gender machineries (ministries or national institutions that have a mandate for gender equality) to be present and actively participate in decision-making spaces, in order to facilitate more inclusive planning. For instance, priority areas that are important for gender equality such as food safety, water resources, or health for instance, tend to gain more prominence in the NDC, and more importantly receive an operational budget.

The **strengthening of institutional capacities** on both sides is pivotal, meaning Ministries of Environment/Climate Change learn about gender equality aspects,

and Ministries of Gender increase their knowledge of climate change, so that staff are knowledgeable on the inter-linkages between climate change and gender equality. Both ministries are then well positioned to translate policies into transformative actions on the ground.

UNDP **focuses on existing coordination mechanisms** (such as any interagency mechanisms or technical working groups) between and among gender, climate change/ environment and line ministries, rather than setting up new, parallel mechanisms. However, countries are **encouraged to formalise these interagency/inter-ministerial committees or working groups** and ensure those actors who are not usually involved in either the development or enhancement of climate actions, such as institutions concerned with gender equality, are involved. The Philippines has formalised an agreement between the Climate Change Commission and the Philippines Commission on Women, while in Chile the Ministry of Gender has become a member of the Climate Change Inter-ministerial technical team of the NDC process.

In response to the challenge of the limited participation of women's organizations in the climate policy process, UNDP has also been **promoting the engagement of non-state actors** (civil society organizations), including **grassroots women's organizations** to ensure more inclusive and gender-responsive climate policies are developed. In Ecuador, a participatory process, consisting of 30 workshops with the participation of 1000 individuals from public and private sector, civil society and academia, was utilized for Ecuador's first, newly developed NDC. The NDC incorporates gender equality aspects, particularly in the energy



The Philippines has formalised an agreement between the Climate Change Commission and the Philippines Commission on Women, while in Chile the Ministry of Gender has become a member of the Climate Change Inter-ministerial technical team of the NDC process.

sector. Ecuador has also since incorporated gender equality in the Bylaw of the National Environmental Law, the National Strategy for Climate Change and in the procedures of the Interinstitutional Committee on Climate Change.

3.1.3 POLICY

A related area of focus for NDC support is to support countries in better **formulating existing climate policy instruments** (such as national gender equality policies, national climate change policies, NAMA, LEDs, NAPs, National Communications/ Biennial Update Reports amongst others). For instance, some countries have a crowded climate change policy instruments that does not highlight gender issues, whereas others may have a gender policy that only mentions climate change in terms of broad environment challenges. Overall, gender policies and climate change policy and planning considerations tend to not be well connected.

UNDP also supports **assessments on the integration of gender equality considerations into climate policy instruments** to identify opportunities for better gender integration. Following this analysis, better synergies and a more systematic integration of gender can be achieved based on existing efforts and better aligned plans under the NDC process. UNDP's approach is to encourage partners to **consider how a country's climate policies can help achieve or promote gender-related objectives and whether climate policies can take into account the gender differentiated impacts of climate change** to avoid further increase in the gender gap. UNDP thus focuses on supporting countries to consider how to strategically harness linkages between different policies and leverage mutual benefits across policies.



Ecuador embraced a participatory process for the development of its first NDC, which incorporates gender equality aspects. It has also incorporated gender equality in the Bylaw of the National Environmental Law, the National Strategy for Climate Change and in the procedures of the Interinstitutional Committee on Climate Change.

3.1.4 PLANNING

Planning processes and institutional arrangements for implementing the NDCs and translating the SDGs into national and sectoral plans need to be well coordinated, built on inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations, and have strong political buy-in. UNDP focuses on **identifying capacity gaps for NDC planning and implementation with a gender lens**. Assembling climate information, including vulnerability assessments and consolidating information from modeling systems require an appraisal process, before **discussions on the prioritization of options** are orchestrated by institutional coordination mechanisms. Cost benefit analysis and multi-criteria analysis may take place during a prioritization process.

Once options that have considered gendered consequences are prioritized, countries develop some sort of **NDC implementation roadmap**, including finance strategies and refined budgets. This provides the basis for **NDC-related investment plans** and private sector engagement. Apart from **mainstreaming climate change into national budget processes**, many countries require **capacity development on accessing climate finance from international levels**. Accessing climate finance, for example from the Green Climate Fund, may require a gender action plan to be prepared.

Through **political engagement**, UNDP discusses and emphasizes with governments how eradicating poverty and inequality, building resilience to disasters and driving sustainable development interact, and are interrelated. Countries are supported to **identify ways to improve coordinated planning** in specific sectors.

- Two Ugandan districts have examined gender issues in energy; agriculture and waste, mobilizing the private sector and local government to put in place interventions that would ensure the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities are beneficiaries from these interventions.

UNDP has been supporting the **development of a range of resources for working to achieve both NDCs and the SDGs**, such as the SDG Climate Action Nexus Tool (SCAN-Tool);³⁰ the iSDG Tool;³¹ or Rapid Integrated Assessment tools that facilitate mainstreaming of

³⁰ http://ambitiontoaction.net/scan_tool/

³¹ <https://exchange.iseesystems.com/public/millenniuminstitute/isdg-20/index.html#page1>



Lebanon - An impact assessment of climate actions on sustainable development goals (SDGs) was completed for twelve sectors. UNDP is working with the National Commission for Lebanese Women, the State Ministry focused on women's empowerment, and the Ministry of Environment to synchronize gender mainstreaming and the SDGs within the NDCs.

SDGs into national and local plans.³² In addition, UNDP's **guidance on gender-sensitive indicators** is promoting people-centered climate strategies, with better timeframes and explicit targets.

- Lebanon - An impact assessment of climate actions on sustainable development goals (SDGs) was completed for twelve sectors. UNDP is working

³² <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/sustainable-development-goals/rapid-integrated-assessment---mainstreaming-sdgs-into-national-a.html>

with the National Commission for Lebanese Women, the State Ministry focused on women's empowerment, and the Ministry of Environment to synchronize gender mainstreaming and the SDGs within the NDCs.

UNDP also encourages countries to **consider the gendered factors underlying certain difficult decisions for a just transition**. Responding to climate change will undoubtedly phase out some carbon-intensive value chains but create other new, 'greener' value chains. Some individuals will lose their jobs, and some may not be well positioned to avail of new opportunities. In the renewable energy sector for example, women may not be automatically part of new high-tech value chains, unless programmes deliberately provide incentives, and capacity development is specifically targeted toward women.

Planning for an **ambitious but just low-carbon economy** in an NDC that does not disproportionately impact low-income households or women already disadvantaged in life, is a strong focus of our work. UNDP must continue to ensure that women benefit when economies are shifting to sustainable production, providing an opportunity for improving their livelihoods and increasing their leadership roles.

3.1.5 SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

With UNDP support, at the regional and international level, countries are sharing experiences and lessons learned on promising gender equality approaches for climate action so they can be adopted or replicated. A global workshop in 2019 with 17 countries participating provided ample opportunity for

exchanging experiences and learning about progress elsewhere.³³ Other examples include:

- **Peru's mainstreaming of gender into their climate action plan** provide inspiration for other countries from Latin America. Strong political commitment, the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in planning, as well as multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms with civil society engagement were all drivers of this process.³⁴
- **The Philippines successfully demonstrated how the Climate Change Act incorporated a gender-sensitive, pro-poor perspective** in all climate change and renewable energy efforts and plans. The case study attracted interest in replicating some elements of the approach.
- **Uganda developed a gender-responsive National Adaptation Plan for its agricultural sector**, which is of interest to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. With UNDP/FAO support, extensive stakeholder consultations were facilitated, using all policy opportunities and entry points, as well as leveraging existing government policies, and referring to the Budget Call Circular which required mandatory mainstreaming of gender into all sectoral budget framework papers and district local government plans.³⁵

³³ UNDP (2019) Gender and NDCs: Country Progress and Key Findings. <https://www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme/en/home/impact-and-learning/library/gender-and-ndcs-country-progress-and-key-findings.html>

³⁴ Mainstreaming Gender into Climate Action: Lessons from Peru. May 2019 Case Study. NDC Partnership. https://api.knack.com/v1/applications/5b23f04fd240aa37e01fa362/download/asset/5ceee8ace77c060006bd5eb5/mainstreaming_gender_into_climate_action_lessons_from_peru.pdf

³⁵ Gender Annex of Mid-Term Review (Murray, 2018) of UNDP/FAO Support Developing Countries to Integrate the Agricultural Sectors into National Adaptation Plans & FAO, UNDP (2017) Gender and Adaptation Planning in the Agricultural Sectors: The Case of Uganda.

3.2 UNDP OFFER ON GENDER FOR THE NDC ENHANCEMENT PROCESS

Time is short to deliver gender-responsive enhanced and ambitious NDCs by 2020, to begin implementing gender-responsive roadmaps and to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The NDC enhancement is an opportunity to improve, embed and start building the foundation to ensure the integration of gender into the next generation of NDCs. For instance, 68 countries indicated in a 2019 survey conducted by UNDP and featured in the “**Heat Is On**” **report** that they intend to incorporate considerations about gender into their revised NDC plans. So, what is feasible to achieve before the end of 2020?

Building on UNDP’s previous support in governance and coordination, inclusive planning approach and ongoing work on aligning policy frameworks, the organization is offering to deliver support to countries in three entry points:³⁶

3.2.1 GOVERNANCE – INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS

UNDP will continue to **support countries in strengthening institutions and coordination mechanisms** between and among gender, climate/environment and line ministries in order to ensure integrated and systematic responses to mainstream gender equality within national climate action.

The agency will also **raise institutional capacities at the horizontal and vertical levels** on climate change and gender, by raising awareness on the inter-linkages and helping build climate change expertise in institutions concerned with gender equality and vice versa.

UNDP will also **promote the participation/engagement of non-state actors (CSOs/ NGOs), including grassroots women’s organizations**, who are not always involved in these processes since a whole-of-society approach is needed to tackle the climate crisis. Thus, the organization will strengthen institutions and coordination mechanisms (including the participation of women’s organizations), in the way that has already proven to work and is already bearing fruit.

This support area will respond to Service Line 1 under the Climate Promise: Build Political Will and Societal Ownership for NDC Enhancement at National/Sub-National Level.

3.2.2 GENDER ANALYSIS IN KEY SECTORS

Countries should conduct a **gender analysis in specific NDC sectors**. Through a gender analysis, countries can better understand the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change within key climate related sectors and where inequalities and gender gaps exist.

UNDP will encourage and support gender analyses for sectors and focus areas that are prioritized by countries. This also includes sectors (e.g. waste management, transport, circular economy, business opportunities) which were historically less likely to conduct gender analyses.

The analysis provides an opportunity to engage different stakeholders who can utilize the information for the decision-making process to **inform or influence climate policies** that interrelate with other development priorities.

Overall, the analysis, including the recommendations, can **inform better planning and implementation of countries’ climate actions** and provide guidance on developing **a more ambitious next generation of NDCs**. A gender analysis also supports countries **preparing Gender Action Plans to access international climate finance**.

This support area will respond to Service Line Task 3 under the Climate Promise: Incorporate Additional Sectors and/or GHGs to Enhance NDC.

³⁶ These are also in line with UNDP’s Climate Promise: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/speeches/2019/undp-climate-summit-flagship-event--global-ndc-outlook-launch---.html>

3.2.3 MAPPING OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Mitigation and adaptation policies and actions must be gender-responsive so that women's needs and contributions can be accounted for to advance equal rights, access to technology, finance and markets in building resilience and pursuing a transition to a low carbon economy.

UNDP will facilitate a process whereby climate planning and policy instruments (i.e. NDC, National Climate Change Policy, NAMAs, NAPs, LEDS, National Communications, BURs, REDD+) are mapped to **identify the extent to which gender equality considerations have been integrated**, and where opportunities exist for better gender integration.

This will also be an **opportunity to see synergies that can be built upon**, based on existing efforts, so that climate plans and policies can be better aligned under the NDC process for a more systematic integration of gender equality considerations. It will also allow to identify areas for capacity development.

This support area will respond to Service Line 2 under the Climate Promise: Review, Align and Update/ Enhance Current NDC Targets and Goals.



UNDP | Katharina Davis

RESOURCES TO GUIDE COUNTRIES IN INTEGRATING GENDER IN THE NDC PROCESS

TOOLS

- Gender Analysis and NDCs: Short Guidance for Government Stakeholders
- Briefing Note on Gender-Responsive Indicators
- Gender Responsive National Communications/BURs Toolkit
- Gender Mainstreaming in Mitigation and Technology Development and Transfer Interventions
- NDC Partnership – Knowledge Portal
- Gender Analysis, Good Practice framework CARE International Gender Network. Care (2012)
- Gender Analysis? European Institute for Gender Equality, EU (2018) EIGE
- Gender and Inclusion Toolbox Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture
- Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects
- UN-REDD Methodological Brief on Gender
- How to conduct a gender analysis: a guidance note for UNDP staff
- Sample ToR for Conducting a gender analysis
- Sample ToR for conducting a sectoral gender analysis
- NDC Partnership Gender Strategy (2019)
- National level indicators for gender, poverty, food security, nutrition and health in Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) activities
- FAO & UNDP (2019) Gender in Adaptation Planning for the Agriculture Sectors. Guide for Trainers.
- Relevance of gender in the policy area: Transport
- ToR Template for Gender Expert: Standard template for terms of reference to hire a gender consultant as part of the project development team

PUBLICATIONS

- Gender Equality in National Climate Action: Planning for Gender-Responsive Nationally Determined Contribution
- Gender and NDCs: Country Progress and Key Findings
- Gender and Climate Change- Thematic Issue Briefs and Training Modules
- Summary of Ghana Gender Analysis
- The Full View. Advancing the goal of gender balance in multilateral and intergovernmental processes.
- Adaptation, gender and women's empowerment. CARE International Climate Change Brief, UK: CARE.
- Supporting women farmers in a changing climate: five policy lessons. 8 page brief.
- OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) October 2016. Making climate finance work for women: Overview of bilateral ODA to gender and climate change
- Filling Buckets, Fueling Change. Ensuring Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation. Learning from the Canada-UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility.
- Making Transport Work for Women and Men: Challenges and Opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa
- Gender and Urban Transport: Smart and Affordable
- Green Climate Fund's searchable document file of all gender action plans and gender assessments for its approved Funding Proposals: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/safeguards/gender>
- UNDP NDC Support Programme library for gender assessments and guidance documents (keyword gender): <https://www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme/en/home/impact-and-learning/library.html>

WEBINARS

- Webinar series: Mainstreaming gender equality in NDCs
- Mainstreaming gender in climate change adaptation planning for the agriculture sectors
- Open Online Course on Gender and Environment: <https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=39&page=overview>

UNDP NDC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
304 E 45th Street, New York, NY 10017
www.ndcs.undp.org
[@UNDPClimate](https://twitter.com/UNDPClimate)

IN CONTRIBUTION TO THE
**NDC
PARTNERSHIP**
ACCELERATING CLIMATE
AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
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and Nuclear Safety

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