



JOINT EVALUATION OF THE EMPOWER:
WOMEN FOR CLIMATE
RESILIENT SOCIETIES REGIONAL
PROJECT ON GENDER, CLIMATE
CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION (2018–2022)



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COVID-19	coronavirus disease
CSOs	civil society organizations
DRR	disaster risk reduction
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IBC	Issue-Based Coalition
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NGO	non-governmental organization
NDC	nationally determined contributions
SADDD	sex, age and disability disaggregated data
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDRR-GETI	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Global Education and Training Institute
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The EmPower Regional Project on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (2018–2022) was carried out by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The EmPower project was piloted in three Asian countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The focus of EmPower was on the nexus of gender equality, climate change, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and renewable energy, and the present report contains the joint evaluation of the project.

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts, and it is extremely disaster-prone. Women and girls in the Asia-Pacific

region suffer greater risk to their survival and recovery in the aftermath of disasters due to multiple deprivations stemming from the intersection of poverty, status and discrimination in various dimensions of well-being, in terms of women's education, employment, time use, health and nutrition, and access to safe water and sanitation, finance, information, technology and asset ownership. The livelihoods and food security of many women in the Asia-Pacific region depend on climate-sensitive sectors. As a result of disasters, many of the poorest women lose their livelihoods, the unpaid work burden increases and gender-based violence escalates. Disaster-related food insecurity leads to transactional sex, human trafficking, exploitation, forced labour and forced marriage of women and girls.

KEY FIGURES

2

United Nations agencies



18

regional partners



3

pilot countries



Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam

The project had a total budget of

\$10 MILLION

between 2018 and 2022

Evaluation purpose and intended audience

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide insights for decision-making and accountability concerning the work of UNEP and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for the EmPower Regional Project. It outlines achievements since 2018, opportunities and challenges, lessons learned and gaps in programming and results.

The primary audience is UNEP and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations country offices and field presences in the region and Sida, which is the key donor of the EmPower project. The evaluation may be useful for secondary actors working for gender mainstreaming in DRR, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, including partner governments, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, national partners and other donors.

Evaluation objectives

1. Assess the relevance and coherence of programme design and implementation.
2. Assess the effectiveness and organizational efficiency of the approaches implemented in attaining the intended results.
3. Assess the contribution towards outcomes, unintended consequences, the potential for sustainability and integration of human rights and gender equality in design and implementation.
4. Produce lessons learned and issue actionable recommendations for the potential EmPower phase 2 or similar programming.

Methodology

The evaluation was gender-responsive, applying mixed-methods (quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and analytical approaches). The design of the joint evaluation was theory-based. The theory of change of the EmPower project was used as the basis for the evaluation. Data collection methods included desk review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions. In total, 83 individuals (27 males and 56 females) were consulted. A case study approach enabled the in-depth study of key issues and implementation modalities at the country level.



Conclusions and key recommendations

The EmPower project was unique, and it operated in a challenging space. There is room for continuing these efforts, as the road ahead is long and more voices are needed. The key learnings from the evaluation provide relevant inputs for a second phase of EmPower or for similar efforts that can be jointly implemented by the UNEP and UN Women, leveraging their respective technical expertise and networks for greater reach and impact.

Relevance

The EmPower project was highly relevant to the priorities and needs of the pilot countries, and it was more broadly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region on the basis of its alignment with the internationally agreed normative commitments. The EmPower project set the stage for continued work on understanding and supporting development partners to respond to the intersection of gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy in the region. While a highly relevant area of work, the project demonstrated that

long-term commitment is needed to see progress towards addressing DRR and key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities on climate change.

Coherence

UNEP and UN Women have forged a partnership that provides a unique opportunity to jointly promote, build capacity, and raise awareness on the nexus between gender equality, climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy). By combining resources, technical expertise and access to partners in government and civil society UN Women and UNEP were able to further develop an area of work that is not well understood and garner commitment of key actors. Much work remains to ensure coherence of efforts across these technical areas. Future efforts will need to ensure that the programme design and management arrangements support conceptual coherence.

Effectiveness and organizational efficiency

The EmPower project has dealt with a critical knowledge gap around the evidence and programme linkages across the nexus. Yet this is just the beginning of a long journey for UN Women and UNEP – much more work is needed to consolidate, deepen, and expand efforts. As a regional joint project of a cross-cutting nature, EmPower required intense joint strategic planning, administration and a joint result monitoring framework at both the regional and the country level covering the entire nexus of gender equality, climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy) to enhance effectiveness and organizational efficiency.

Human rights, gender equality and sustainability

EmPower is a flagship United Nations project in the Asia and the Pacific region, and it has clearly contributed to raising awareness and capacity on why a gender equality perspective is critical and how governments, civil society and the United Nations system can address key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities utilizing human rights-based approaches. To accelerate change, clearer strategies are needed for targeting vulnerable and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, and tackling the deep social norms change required for transformative change across the climate change nexus.

The report makes the following recommendations to carry forward the key learnings from EmPower:



RECOMMENDATION

1

Building on the value add of UN Women-UNEP in the gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy nexus, review and articulate the theory of change to ensure project clearly leverages the cross-sectoral nature of work and that goals are adapted to the COVID-19 context. Engage United Nations partners and external partners to enhance coherence and streamline synergies across sectors and clearly embed within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.



RECOMMENDATION

2

Enhance project governance and coordination across regional and country levels and across outputs at both levels and establish an integrated approach to monitoring to help to tell the story of the impact of the project. Establish an EmPower regional knowledge hub that focuses on building knowledge sharing platforms and consolidating the knowledge produced through the first phase of the project. In line with these actions, continue building resource mobilization and co-financing strategies to ensure the effectiveness of these efforts.



RECOMMENDATION

3

Review approaches at both regional and national levels, including at community and subnational levels, that will enhance the effectiveness of coordination and implementation. Continue building relationships with ASEAN and other regional bodies by deepening efforts across sectors and furthering research and advocacy.



RECOMMENDATION

4

In consultation with partners, develop a more targeted and explicit approach to social norms change and to the identification and engagement of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities.



Photo: UNEP/Andrew Ball

1

INTRODUCTION

Human rights and gender equality in the context of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and renewable energy) in the Asia-Pacific region .

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts, and it is extremely disaster-prone. Women have inadequate and unequal access to essential resources such as land, water, finance, information, technology and energy, which increases the vulnerability of women to climate change and undermines their capacity to adapt. The livelihoods of many women in the Asia-Pacific region depend on climate-sensitive sectors, thus their ability to generate income and secure food and nutrition is under threat. Climate change affects the fundamental rights to life, health, food, water and an adequate standard of living. In many countries in Asia, this was already a reality before the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) began to spread, and this reality has been compounded by the pandemic. In March 2021, the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that “the COVID-19 pandemic has erased decades of progress towards gender equality.”¹ Millions of

vulnerable and economically poor households across the region, including many women and girls, resorted to harmful coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets, taking on debt and reducing their consumption of food. It disproportionately affected women and girls working in the informal economy with limited or no social protection. They lost their jobs and income, took on greater burdens of unpaid care work and faced gender-based violence during lockdowns.² Fifteen million girls were out of school in East Asia and the Pacific before the pandemic. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has estimated that 1.2 million girls who dropped out of school because of the COVID-19 pandemic will not re-enroll,³ causing a spike in child marriages, teenage pregnancies, child labour and abuse, and violence against women and children. Box 1 highlights key disaster-related statistics from the Asia-Pacific region.

-
1. United Nations, 2021, Women’s Lives Upended, Rights Eroded amid COVID-19, Secretary-General Says in Message for International Day, Warning Impact Will Outlast Pandemic. Press release, 3 March.
 2. ADB, 2020, Food Security in Asia and Pacific amidst COVID-19 pandemic, ADB Brief No 139; UNDRR, 2020, Combating the Dual Challenges of COVID-19 and Climate-related Disasters, UNDRR Asia-Pacific COVID-19 Brief; and United Nations, 2020, [Joint statement on nutrition in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific: UN agencies on the nutritional impacts of COVID-19](#).
 3. UNESCO, 2020, [UNESCO COVID-19 education response: how many students are at risk of not returning to school?](#)

BOX 1: Key disaster statistics from the Asia-Pacific region

- The region has 10 of the 15 most at-risk countries worldwide.^{a/}
- Since 1970, natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific have killed two million people — 59 per cent of the global death toll. The principal causes of natural disaster deaths were earthquakes and storms, followed by floods.^{b/}
- 70 per cent of disasters in the region are climate-induced. Where available, sex-disaggregated data confirm that women's mortality rates in regional disasters are much higher than men's because of the pre-existing discrimination and inequalities in accessing knowledge, early warning, evacuation, and humanitarian services.^{c/}
- Women have higher disaster-related mortality. c/ The majority of the poor in the region are women and girls. d/ Of the total population living under \$2 per day, 80 per cent are women.^{e/}
- Disaster-related food insecurity leads to transactional sex, human trafficking, exploitation, forced labour and forced marriages of women and girls.^{f/}

Notes:

a/ United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Alliance Development Works (BEH), 2016, World Risk Report 2016. Bonn/Berlin.

b/ UNEASCAP (2019) The Disaster Riskscape across the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019.

c/ ADB and UN Women, 2018, [Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific](#).

d/ UN Women (2022) [Asia-Pacific Economic Empowerment](#).

e/ UN Women, 2016, Action not words: Confronting Gender Inequality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia – An overview of progress in Asia with evidence from Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.

f/ [Ha Noi Recommendations for Action on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

Historical disaster data show that the three EmPower pilot countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam – are highly vulnerable to climate change and rising extreme hydro-meteorological and geological disasters such as sea-level rise, storms, cyclones, droughts, floods, flash floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, liquefaction and landslides.⁴ Women in the pilot countries primarily depend on climate-sensitive livelihood sectors, such as agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and allied industries. They are responsible for food production and food security within and beyond the family. Women in Cambodia produce 80 per cent of food.⁵ Shortages of food, water and fuel due to climate change, social norms and gendered division of labour increases the

unpaid workload of women and girls, and they often have no time for economic activities and education, which causes inequalities to grow.⁶ Women have limited access to and control over resources, such as land, property, energy, formal credit and job training; and these disadvantages are further compounded by poor representation of women in decision-making positions, particularly at local levels. While a comprehensive policy environment for DRR and disaster risk management exists in some countries, many policies governing DRR and climate change frame women as victims in need of safety and protection rather than equal citizens and key actors alongside men.⁷ The patriarchal system still poses significant challenges to women.

4. ESCAP, 2021, [Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021](#); ASEAN, 2010, Synthesis Report on Ten ASEAN Countries Disaster Risks Assessment. Available at www.unisdr.org/files/18872_asean.pdf; and Alliance Development Works (BEH) and Ruhr University Bochum, 2021, World Risk Report 2021.

5. FAO, 2019, [Empowering Women to tackle Climate Change in rural Cambodia: Gender Training for Micro-Watershed Management and Sustainable Agriculture](#).

6. UN Women, 2015, [Gender, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Strategy-Asia Pacific 2015–2018](#).

7. UN Women, 2017, Action Not Words: Confronting Gender Inequality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia. Available at <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/04/action-not-words>.

UN Women and UNEP efforts on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and renewable energy

The efforts of UN Women and UNEP in areas related to gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy are guided by international commitments and frameworks, including climate change agreements: [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#); Paris Agreement; Gender equality and climate change: Glasgow Women's Leadership statement; [Lima Work Programme](#); [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(2015–2030\)](#); [United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development](#); [Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – Guidance note on using climate and disaster risk management to help build resilient societies](#); [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) and [general recommendation No. 37 \(2018\)](#) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the gender-related dimensions of DRR in the context of climate change; and the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Fourth World Conference on Women \(1995\)](#).

The [Ha Noi Recommendations for Action on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) include actions to be taken by member States, and further tools and support are provided in the guide entitled [Operationalizing Leaving No One Behind: Good practice note for UN Country Teams](#). The other key reference points are the gender, climate change adaptation and DRR-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), New Urban Agenda, [Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change \(Volume I\)](#), and Global Compact on Refugees.

Financial and human resources

Key donors

The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) allocated a total budget of \$10,116,007. The initial budget was approximately \$9.4 million. In November 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sida allocated

additional funding in the amount of \$708,912 to accelerate the project results contribute in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to women and at-risk communities.

Key partners

A comprehensive gender and human rights-based stakeholder mapping and analysis were done during the inception period. The list of partners is included in annex 1. UN Women and UNEP collaborated and worked with a diverse range of local and international partners. These include regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). It also actively collaborated with United Nations agencies including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations agencies at the country level. At the national level, partnerships were established with relevant national government agencies, including the ministries of environment and women affairs, the statistics bureau and authorities for decentralization, energy development planning and disaster management. Both UNEP and UN Women fostered partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs). They were active in mobilizing women focused organizations and grassroots youth organizations as community partners. At the regional and country level, UN Women and UNEP cultivated relationships with partners in the private sector and academia.

Evaluation purpose, objectives, scope and methodology

Purpose

The overall objective of the joint evaluation is to assess progress made over the project period towards achieving the intended outcome, “countries in Asia and the Pacific are implementing gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions to address key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities”. The evaluation is focused on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, human rights and gender

equality, including how the project engaged the most vulnerable groups, in particular women living in remote disaster-prone rural areas. It assessed environmental safeguards taken by the project and its contributions towards impact. It considered how EmPower had integrated the recommendations and lessons learned from the mid-term review. It shared inputs and guidance for the potential next phase of the EmPower project. Performance was assessed against the log frame of the project and the indicators presented in the results and reporting framework (annex 2).

Objectives

The following are the objectives of the joint evaluation of EmPower:

1. Assess the relevance and coherence of the UN system with respect to programme design and implementation;
2. Assess the effectiveness and organizational efficiency of the approaches implemented in attaining the intended results;
3. Assess the contribution towards outcomes, unintended consequences, the potential for sustainability, and integration of human rights and gender equality in design and implementation;
4. Produce lessons learned and issue actionable recommendations for the potential EmPower phase 2 or similar programming.

Scope

The evaluation covers all programme components, implemented by the UNEP and UN Women. The evaluation covers the entire project life (from April 2018 up to quarter 2 of 2022 as the last year of the project). The evaluation focused on activities implemented in Cambodia and Viet Nam, as well as at the regional level. The evaluation consulted with key stakeholders (i.e. beneficiaries, participating governments, civil society partners, implementing partners at the national and regional levels, and partner agencies, as well as the project steering committee members and project partners), on aspects of programme implementation (the list of stakeholder is included in annex 3). Evaluators conducted focus group discussions with the communities and beneficiaries, including women, individuals and groups who are vulnerable and discriminated against

in the consultation process. They included women-led CSOs, indigenous community members and women entrepreneurs.

Methodology, data collection and analysis, and limitations

The evaluation approach promoted inclusion and participation by employing gender equality and human rights responsive approaches, focusing on utilization, empowerment and feminist approaches. The evaluation was gender-responsive, which applies mixed-methods (quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and analytical approaches) to account for the complexity of gender relations and to ensure the processes were participatory, inclusive and culturally appropriate. The design of the joint evaluation was theory-based. The theory of change of the EmPower project was used as the basis for the evaluation. The evaluation includes recommendations for a potential phase 2.

Data collection methods include desk review, observation, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with 83 individuals (56 women and 27 men). A case study approach enabled the in-depth study of key issues and implementation modalities at the country level. It included stakeholder consultation, observation, review and analysis of progress and completion reports, workshop and mission reports, knowledge and advocacy products, and other appropriate documentation produced and related by UN Women and UNEP. The criteria for case study selection were identified during the inception phase in collaboration with the programme team to focus on opportunities for learning and feasibility of the visit (given COVID-19 restrictions) and were limited to two countries—Cambodia and Viet Nam (the case studies are provided in annex 4 and annex 5). National consultants in the selected countries led the data collection and analysis. Understanding and assessing how the project addresses complex, intersecting discrimination and how it affects women's rights was part of this approach. Evaluators conducted consultations with stakeholder groups using participatory tools, such as focus group discussions, consultations and interviews, and observations of the sites. Based on the findings of the consultations, national consultants visited selected project sites to validate the desk review and documentation analysis findings and identify good practices and lessons learned.

APPROACH: NON-EXPERIMENTAL, GENDER-RESPONSIVE METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

Mixed Methods approach

Desk review: Analysis of more than 100 documents

KIIs with 83 individuals: including both internal and external stakeholders (27 men and 56 women)

Case studies

Viet Nam: Capacity development and access to finance for renewable energy for women-led organizations in Viet Nam

Cambodia: Social enterprise for drinking water using solar power

Limitations

- Limited time period for data collection
- In-person interviews were limited
- Staff turnover



+100
documents
consulted



2 Case Studies
both with in-person
data collection



83 Individuals
consulted



10 FGDs



1 Reference
Group

Theory of change

During the inception phase, the evaluation team held a workshop with the project team to discuss the original theory of change and the extent to which this evolved during the project implementation. The evaluation team determined that overall the theory of change was sound and had not substantially changed, however, given this is a new area of work the theory of change will continue to evolve as understanding on the causal pathways becomes clearer. The evaluation team used the original theory of change to assess the contributions to outcomes, and developed the reconstructed theory of change shown in figure 1 (see annex 6 for details). The project contributes to the outcome: Countries in Asia and the Pacific are implementing gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions to address key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities.

The project results correspond to the original theory of change:

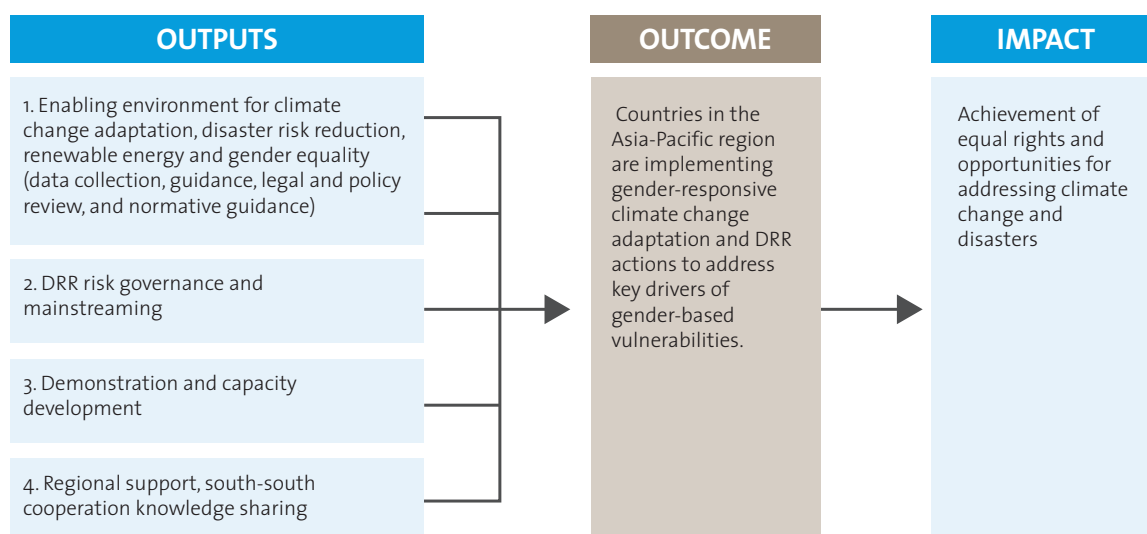
IF (i) Supported women's voice and participation: CSOs representing women and women's groups can lead, participate in and influence climate

change and DRR decision-making processes; (ii) Available sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD): Governments and key stakeholders can generate, analyse and use SADDD to inform climate change and DRR policies and actions; (iii) Gender mainstreamed into national policies: National climate change and DRR policymakers can integrate and enhance responsiveness to gender equality commitments; (iv) Access to renewable energy: Women can exercise rights to access and control economic resources, through renewable energy to build resilient and transformative livelihoods; (v) Regional normative processes, knowledge products and platforms on climate change and DRR integrate and enhance responsiveness to gender equality and human rights.

THEN Women in Asia and the Pacific are more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters;

BECAUSE implementation of climate change and DRR actions in Asia and the Pacific addresses critical drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities and enhances human rights.

FIGURE 1: Reconstructed theory of change



Assumptions

1. National commitments to address gender inequality and integrate human rights into development.
2. Governments are seeking ways to prevent and address impacts of climate change and disasters, to ensure adaptive capacity and resilience of their citizens.
3. Stakeholders will use the knowledge, tools and methodologies to influence policy processes.
4. The private and public sector, United Nations agencies and CSOs are willing to cooperate.
5. Enabling factors for achievement of SDGs

Evaluation governance and quality assurance

The entire evaluation, the evaluation experts and all their direct collaborators followed the established mechanisms to ensure high-quality evaluation processes and products in line with the UN Women Evaluation Policy and Handbook, UNEP guidance and the ethical guidelines, norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group, considering a human-rights-based and gender equality approach. All products are subject to a quality review by the UN Women and UNEP

evaluation specialists, the Evaluation Reference Group and the Evaluation Management Group. The Evaluation Reference Group comprises national government partners, civil society representatives, development partners/donors and United Nations representatives. The Evaluation Reference Group provided input on inception, data collection, preliminary findings and the draft report. The group’s feedback was essential to ensure the factual accuracy of the report and the accuracy of the interpretation of contextual information, and to identify gaps in the analysis. For the terms of reference for the Evaluation Reference Group, see annex 7.



Photo: UNEP/Maxwell Gutteridge

2 FINDINGS



RELEVANCE: TO WHAT EXTENT WERE THE DESIGN AND EXPECTED RESULTS (OUTCOME AND FIVE OUTPUTS) OF THE EMPOWER PROJECT INFORMED BY BENEFICIARIES' REQUIREMENTS, COUNTRIES' NEEDS, AND PRIORITIES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE (FOR EXAMPLE, THE GENDER ACTION PLAN UNDER UNFCCC) AND SIDA POLICIES?

FINDING
1

The EmPower project addresses a critical knowledge and learning gap on gender-responsive climate change adaptation, DRR and the environment (with a focus on renewable energy) and is aligned with international treaties, commitments and frameworks. While the topics of gender equality, climate change and DRR individually are identified to varying degrees as critical issues in the target countries, there is limited understanding of the relevance of focusing on the intersection of these topics.

The EmPower concept was identified as relevant by stakeholders and aligned with international, regional and national priorities and frameworks (see table 1). The project responded to the interconnected social (gender), environmental (climate change, DRR and renewable energy) and economic (livelihoods) dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. At the global and regional

level, EmPower was aligned with and supported the delivery of the global strategies of UN Women and UNEP. The two agencies collaborated well to integrate gender into environment-related, normative frameworks and integrate the environment into normative work on gender equality. The relevance and alignment of the EmPower project with UN Women and UNEP strategies are shown in table 2.

TABLE 1: Relevance to and alignment with international treaties, commitments and frameworks

Human rights and gender equality	Environment and climate change	Disaster risk reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) ii. Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights iii. CEDAW Committee general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change iv. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action v. Leaving No One Behind: Good practice note for UN Country Teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. UNFCCC ii. Paris Agreement iii. Glasgow Declaration on Women's Leadership iv. Lima Work Programme v. Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development vi. Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – Guidance note on using climate and disaster risk management to help build resilient societies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) ii. Ha Noi Recommendations for Action on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction iii. New Urban Agenda iv. Agenda for Humanity – World Humanitarian Summit v. Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Volume I) vi. United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development vii. Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

TABLE 2: Relevance to and alignment with global and regional strategies

UN Women	UNEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant outcomes of the UN Women Strategic Plan (2018–2022): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcome 1: A comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms, policies, and standards on gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls is strengthened and implemented; - Outcome 3: Women have income security, decent work, and economic autonomy; - Outcome 5: Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. • Global flagship projects of UN Women directly link to EmPower: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women’s empowerment through smart climate agriculture; - Women’s entrepreneurship for sustainable development; - Addressing the gender inequality of risk in changing climate; - Women’s resilience to disasters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global strategies and multilateral environmental agreements of UNEP on reducing environmental risks and increasing the resilience of societies while responding to population growth and stress on natural resources and ecosystem services. • Seven thematic subprogrammes guide the work of UNEP, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. The other subprogrammes are: resilience to disasters and conflicts; healthy and productive ecosystems; environmental governance; chemicals, waste and air quality; resource efficiency; and the environment under review. EmPower was designed in line with the programme of work in the climate change subprogramme. Linkages and contributions were made to subprogrammes on environmental governance, the environment under review and resilience to disasters and conflicts.

Climate change and disasters are identified as critical issues in the Asia Pacific region, including in the three target countries; thus, climate change and DRR are addressed as priority areas for delivery. The EmPower workplan results framework and budget contributed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Table 3 shows project outcomes/outputs that complement the agreements made under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

TABLE 3: Relevance to outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

Country	EmPower relevance to outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework
Bangladesh	<p>Outcome 1 By 2020, relevant State institutions and their respective partners will develop and implement improved social policies and Projects that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities, and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.</p> <p>Output 1.1 National and subnational authorities empowered to implement gender-sensitive policies and strategies, especially for gender-based violence and child marriage.</p> <p>Outcome 2 By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, enhance effective management of the natural and man-made environment focusing on improved sustainability and increased resilience of vulnerable individuals and groups.</p>
Cambodia	<p>Outcome 3 – Promoting Sustainable Living – By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular the marginalized and vulnerable, live in a safer, healthier, more secure and ecologically balanced environment with improved livelihoods, and are resilient to natural and climate change related trends and shocks.</p> <p>Outcome 5 – Managing Urbanization - By 2023, women and men living in urban areas, including those marginalized and vulnerable, enjoy a safer, more secure and healthier life, utilizing quality public and private services, and benefiting from improved urban governance informed by their voice and participation. This alignment is reflected in outcome indicators 1, 4 and 5, which relate to social protection, peaceful societies and managing urbanization</p>
Viet Nam	<p>Outcome 2.1: By 2021, Viet Nam has accelerated its transition to sustainable development and green growth towards a low-carbon economy. It has enhanced its adaptation and resilience to climate change and natural disasters, focusing on empowering the poor and vulnerable groups.</p>

It became evident through the project implementation that it would be a challenge to add gender equality and human rights-based perspectives into an already complex agenda for climate change and DRR integration and coherence. In practice, the work was conceptually challenging – gender equality is rarely mentioned in climate change and DRR efforts, and many government departments and divisions still have not considered gender issues. The humanitarian and development nexus was also a challenge for the implementation of EmPower. Interviewees reported

that this mirrored a globally well-known disconnect between comprehensive DRR and climate change adaptation and the broader objective of sustainable development. While the project was deemed relevant, the consultations identified the need for further guidance, coordination and cross-sectoral technical convening and research both in-country and across the region to raise awareness about the relevance of the intersection between sustainable development, DRR and climate change adaptation.



FINDING
2

The EmPower project quickly adapted to the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, reprogramming resources, including adjusting agreements with the implementing partners. There is an opportunity to position the project to contribute to post COVID-19 recovery work, both regionally and nationally.

The EmPower project adapted quickly and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic and after the mid-term review. EmPower staff turned COVID-19 pandemic challenges into opportunities by utilizing information technology (online training), mobilizing women's networks and establishing effective communication protocols across the project with collaborators, implementing partners and networks in the field.

A key project adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic involved shifting the capacity-building plan into an online learning exercise. This generated an online learning programme through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to be delivered to Governments, NGOs and United Nations officials across the region. According to regional partners such as ASEAN and member States, online learning has been beneficial for scaling the learning and key messages from the project. It had the benefit of input from UNEP and UN Women.

As activities during the COVID-19 pandemic shifted online, they attracted more participants. In Viet Nam, for example, frequent meetings with key stakeholders were more inclusive which had better results in terms of the assessments on drafts of the gender equality laws; participation in policy advocacy; and coordination with Vietnamese NGOs to identify financial support for implementing initiatives. Interviewees suggested

that activities under output 4 that focussed on helping enhance women's capacity while instructing them to set up business plans took risk factors into account, such as COVID-19 and other major fluctuations. Shifting online also meant that the EmPower team continuously learned to maximize available collaborative tools to foster strong online engagement among stakeholders (e.g. format of trainings, use of e-learning platform, communication strategies, and use of design to connect with participants). However, COVID-19 lockdowns and shifting to virtual methods also led to limited in-person direct interaction with the communities. Women's groups in remote areas in pilot countries had limited access to stable Internet connections and technology, and this limited active engagement during lockdowns.

With respect to post-COVID-19 planning, stakeholders expressed a need for the emerging evidence from programme implementation experiences and the knowledge products of the project to be packaged and shared at the regional and national levels. The EmPower project could communicate targeted messages around the linkages of gender equality, human rights, climate change, the environment (renewable energy) and DRR to influence regional COVID-19 pandemic recovery processes.



COHERENCE: TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE PROJECT ENABLE/COMPLEMENT/CREATE SYNERGIES BETWEEN UNEP AND UN WOMEN AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS CONCERNING MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN CLIMATE CHANGE, DRR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY?

FINDING
3

UN Women and UNEP effectively mobilized their networks and brought a clear value add in their respective areas of expertise. However, coherence could have been enhanced by moving away from the siloed output level approach towards more joint implementation of work.

EmPower is unique and important as the first-ever UN Women-UNEP joint project and cooperation pilot in the Asia-Pacific region. EmPower's strategy and approach recognized the complexity of cooperation and synergies around the nexus of gender equality, human rights, climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy). UN Women and UNEP were named co-leads for EmPower per their mandates and in the spirit of working together as "One UN system". At the country level, UNEP worked on mainstreaming gender equality in the renewable energy sectors and UN Women worked more broadly on mainstreaming gender equality and human rights across the sectors.

The project provided an opportunity for Sida as a key donor partner to fulfil their international commitment to aid effectiveness as per the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action and through gender mainstreaming in climate change and DRR protecting the rights and empowering women across these issues. Although there is a deep need for this work in the Pacific, as it is extremely vulnerable to climate change and disasters, EmPower did not include any Pacific country in the pilot. Funding was concentrated on results in the pilot countries in South Asia and South-East Asia with the aim of not spreading too thinly across countries. While the project knowledge products and training reached beyond the pilot countries, project teams reported that it was helpful to focus the financing on the three countries selected because they are very different in terms of gender equality progress, human development index, economic development and geography, and comparative cases would illustrate the complexity of introducing changes in the different contexts, including through different entry points. The teams interviewed expressed gratitude for the donor support for financing the work in the three pilot countries.

The project activities required intense coordination and advocacy about the interlinkages between the areas of focus and partnerships were leveraged to

generate actions and new knowledge and evidence (data, indicators research and pilot demonstration). This was important to make a strong business case for gender mainstreaming and programme/policy linkages between sectoral areas – climate change, renewable energy and DRR. The work cut across the mandates of several United Nations agencies and development partners.

a) UN Women and UNEP bring a clear value add in their respective expertise, but a siloed output level approach to project management resulted in missed opportunities to fully leverage these synergies and expand reach through the United Nations system.

The rationale for the joint modality, according to stakeholders consulted who were engaged in the design phase of EmPower, was to build upon the collaborating agencies' technical and normative strengths and the networks they had with key partners in their respective areas to learn and provide quality normative guidance. The value-added identified by stakeholders included joint technical assistance, including joining up technical assets to make stronger arguments, bridging respective partners' networks and bringing in new partners, conducting joint capacity development and joint results monitoring, delivering collaborative technical assistance and carrying out joint piloting, joint advocacy, resourcing and communication work (see finding 4 for details). The case studies conducted for this evaluation in Cambodia and Viet Nam (see annex 4 and annex 5) illustrate the synergies between UNEP and UN Women concerning the execution of online capacity building training, for example.

Nevertheless, the outcome and output areas were not well-integrated thematically and substantively (i.e. renewable energy, statistics, DRR and climate change adaptation). The project needed a smarter implementation design to ensure that synergies between outputs were more harmonized and coherent across the topics. The arrangements in the plan to deliver and monitor the outputs included a division of labour

between UN Women, UNEP and other collaborating partners. The two lead agencies split outputs: UN Women led outputs 1 and 2 only; and UNEP led output 4 only with limited to no interaction between the teams at the country level. This resulted in disjointed planning and execution in outputs 1, 2 and 4, and the partnership and the key learning outputs were delivered separately, thereby limiting overall coherence. Output 3 work was led and implemented by UN Women and UNEP jointly. Individually UN Women and UNEP have done very good work on policy and planning at both the regional and national levels. However, there is not much evidence for joint work at the national level. This may have limited visibility, and the government and other stakeholders may have limited understanding of the value added by working across sectors, for example. UN Women and UNEP did work together for the achievement of Output 5. For example, there was collaboration in organizing joint sessions at the international forums/conferences. The five outputs have cross-cutting and joint normative work, but a management mechanism for linking the outputs was not there to ensure conceptual coherence across the outputs as a holistic model for change or for deepening the work “toward change and transformative outcomes”. The approach in delivering five singular outputs limited the opportunity for the regional teams (UN Women, UNEP) to provide joint strategic thinking. An integrated approach was needed for joint monitoring across outputs, implementing a joint capacity-building strategy and consistently providing joint technical assistance and backstopping to all the regional and country stakeholders. However, at national level in the absence of strategies for joint work on knowledge production and joint work on the demonstration pilots, it was difficult for governments to see what was on offer as a joint package of value-added technical services. National documents require common guidance on mainstreaming gender into policies on climate change, the environment (renewable energy) and DRR. For example, there is room for joint execution of technical assistance, including analysis of gender impacts and gender roles, and cross-sectoral research and country actions to comprehensively respond to climate change and disasters.

The EmPower workplan, results framework and budget contributed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework implementation plan in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam through coordination between UNEP and

UN Women. The project exposed the institutional and development coordination gaps for joint work on gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy. Although both agencies were represented in the environment/climate change working groups of the United Nations Country Teams to advocate mainstreaming gender equality into these areas, stronger cross-sectoral work would have been required to extend participation and contributions to other working groups of the United Nations Country Team and expanded partnerships (i.e. the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and others), as embedded in the spirit and practice of the [United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies](#).

b) UNEP and UN Women effectively mobilized their national partners who were in turn effective at mobilizing and bridging their respective networks.

The EmPower project document and an initial scoping exercise identified an extensive list of the potential national and regional partners and stakeholders, and this partnership mapping was further refined during the inception period, especially for case study countries (see annex 1 for the list of collaborating partners mapped during inception period). The collaborating partners were engaged through one-to-one agreements with UNEP and UN Women.

UN Women mobilized partners across the DRR networks, particularly at the national level. In Viet Nam, partnership with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority advanced the work on gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation (M&E), advocacy for gender-responsive DRR policies, including co-organization of the ASEAN Forum on Gender and DRR: Five years after Hanoi. In Cambodia, the work with the National Committee for Disaster Management enabled the development of the National Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in DRR which will support the implementation of gender mainstreaming in DRR at national and subnational levels. In Bangladesh, UN Women engaged with the Ministry of Environment. EmPower did not engage with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in Bangladesh to avoid duplication with the National Resilience Project, another project that Sida is funding.

There is room for more joint and coherent planning and implementation with UNEP for climate change, DRR and renewable energy integration. Existing DRR structures, such as the ministry or office for disaster risk management and the ministry of development planning, national and local platforms for DRR, disaster risk management committees and

teams at national and subnational levels, including community levels, could have been more involved in the integration of climate change adaptation and DRR into national policies, subnational and community-level work on collecting SADDD and formulating DRR and development plans and budgets.



EFFECTIVENESS: TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE EMPOWER PROJECT CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED OUTCOME “COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ARE IMPLEMENTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRR ACTIONS TO ADDRESS KEY DRIVERS OF GENDER-BASED VULNERABILITIES”?

FINDING 4

The EmPower project effectively mobilized CSO networks, national stakeholders and leveraged partnerships in the region to enhance capacities to enhance gender mainstreaming into climate and DRR policies, programmes and budgets at the regional, national and local levels. There is a need for more joint technical analysis and codification of output results and gaps in order to support a coherent model that can be scaled up at the country level.

EmPower exceeded expectations on 15 targets and fully achieved 7 targets. However, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the achievement of the seven targets related to gender statistics (output 2), capacity-building for gender-responsive policies (output 3) and renewable energy (output 4). Efforts are ongoing to achieve these delayed targets before the end of the project. The log frame in annex 2 provides the overall results and achievements per output as reported by the EmPower team.

Output 1: CSOs representing women and women’s groups are able to lead, participate in and influence climate change and DRR decision-making processes

Output 1 involves CSOs supporting and facilitating activities on building CSO networks/coalitions as well as building coalitions between CSOs and government institutions working on climate change, DRR and gender equality. Output 5 includes activities on intergovernmental and cross-sectoral normative processes on climate change with CSO participation and sessions on gender equality.

The EmPower project was needs-based and well reflected CSO perspectives. The project worked directly at the local level with women-led and women-centred CSOs, supporting the amplification of their voices and addressing their needs and capacity gaps, such as access to technologies, financing and sustainable livelihoods in disaster-prone areas. During the project

inception phase, policy frameworks were reviewed and a rapid stakeholder identification process was conducted which included consultations with country offices. Through its regional partners, such as the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women and ICIMOD, EmPower conducted scoping studies of CSOs at the national and grassroots level, with outputs such technical briefs from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam. This informed the development of the Regional Manual on Gender and Climate Resilience, which was designed to strengthen the role of CSOs, especially those working on gender and women’s rights, in understanding the importance of mainstreaming gender into climate policies, programmes and budgets at the regional, national and local level. The baseline studies also contributed to and complemented work under output 2 (the collection of quantitative data) and output 3 (gender responsive climate change and DRR policies). The training of trainers package (including a user guide, a concept note, baseline survey and feedback forms, a sample programme schedule, presentations, facilitator’s references and handouts) were published on the [EmPower website](#) and widely disseminated by CSO partners and civil society communities. The training of trainers package was developed in English to encourage wider use by CSOs from other countries in the region, and it is available in six additional languages: Vietnamese

(Viet Nam), Khmer (Cambodia), Bangla (Bangladesh), Thai (Thailand), Nepali (Nepal), Filipino (Philippines). The Bangla, Filipino, Khmer, Nepali, Thai and Vietnamese versions were similarly prepared for wide dissemination by partner CSOs. Apart from the training of trainers package, the project also organized other training events for women-led CSOs (Viet Nam) and women farmers (Bangladesh). The EmPower post-training reports note that women leaders gained confidence in expressing their views on climate change policies. Women farmers were trained on how to build more resilient livelihoods, such as climate-smart crop production, marketing, agro-advisory and early warning information, including agro-met information. The project also mentored women-led CSOs on the development of project proposals. In Viet Nam eight initiatives were selected to receive funding support of around \$1,000 from EmPower and the Blue Water Fund of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project effectively mobilized and utilized resources and networks regionally, and in the pilot countries EmPower teams bridged and facilitated interactions between the national and local level women’s groups on policy issues.

The project created a platform for all stakeholders to align policies and practices and provided many opportunities for women’s CSOs to participate actively in national and international conferences, including the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties (COP26) to UNFCCC. Details are provided in the country case studies in annex 4 and annex 5. A paper on the [Key messages to COP26 on “Gender Mainstreaming and Women’s Empowerment”](#) was developed by CSO networks and the Viet Nam Women’s Union to share the views of civil society with the national delegation to UNFCCC/COP26 about the application of a gender lens to climate change and the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of dialogues involving CSO leaders have been held to improve their influence on climate change and DRR decision-making, including the Asia-Pacific regional dialogue, “Feminist Climate Action by One and All: Generation Equality, Human Rights and Climate Justice”, held and the High-Level Virtual Roundtable - Gender Inclusive Climate Actions in 2021.

Respondents in women-led NGOs in Viet Nam and Cambodia perceived network-building by the EmPower project as an excellent opportunity for the future to enhance the capacity of government agencies and women-led NGOs in DRR. CSO partners commended the steadfast support from the UN Women during COVID-19 pandemic.

Output 2: Governments and key stakeholders are able to generate, analyse and use sex, age and disability disaggregated data to inform climate change and disaster risks and actions

The project worked with national stakeholders on statistics, data collection and building evidence for policy. Engaging strategic partnerships for data collection and linking this work to the disaster management arena was central to the results at the community level. Interviews and reports identified good practices in Bangladesh and Viet Nam. Each pilot country – Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam – published the national gender indicators. While this has been adopted in Bangladesh and in Cambodia, it has not been adopted in Viet Nam yet, although the Ministry of Women’s Affairs in Viet Nam is organizing dialogues to finalize and adopt. EmPower in collaboration with Women Count published a report entitled [Integrating Gender in Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#): Example Indicators with examples from the pilot countries.

The project also supported the development of guidelines on SADDD for disaster monitoring. In Viet Nam for instance, with the support of UN Women, the Management Policy and Technology Centre in Viet Nam developed SADDD and a vulnerability database for the Viet Nam disaster management system software, reviewed gender-related legal documents on disaster prevention and assisted the General Department for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control in collecting sex-disaggregated data on livelihoods and economy in five pilot provinces. New and improved indicators integrated SADDD in exposure to disasters, vulnerability, coping capacity, human, physical and economic impacts, access to health services, household decision-making and women’s political leadership. The project has successfully linked stakeholders, allowing the Centre to acquire sex-disaggregated data down to the commune level with the help of the General Statistics Office.

In Asia and the Pacific, there is still a lack of generation and use of SADD in climate change and DRR actions. The implementation of and lessons from the development of capacity and knowledge base on SADD can address the information gap on needs and vulnerability of different genders and different communities in climate change and DRR policies and actions. This has the potential to ensure that policies and actions for climate change and DRR are more effective and evidence-based in addressing the concerns of women and marginalized groups.

Output 3: National climate change and DRR policymakers are able to integrate and enhance responsiveness to gender equality commitments

Under output 3, EmPower worked with stakeholders in national policymaking across the nexus of gender equality, climate change, renewable energy and DRR, and identified entry points for influencing policy processes at national levels. Evaluators found that by design in implementation of the project strategy, UN Women was focused on climate change adaptation and DRR mainstreaming, while UNEP was focused on mainstreaming gender in the renewable energy sector. However, work on output 3 revealed some challenges with respect to partnerships on national level policies. Stakeholders in these processes reported that it was difficult to change policies on climate change and DRR after they had been adopted. For gender equality and human rights mainstreaming, the more appropriate strategy was to identify entry points for work in forward-oriented policy reviews.

For example, during the project implementation in Viet Nam, the process of drafting the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the reduction of emissions and adaptation to climate change proved to be a unique opportunity for the EmPower team to provide technical support. As a result gender-related adjustments were included in the Viet Nam NDC for the first time. The NDC drafting process is an excellent opportunity for progressive work requiring UNEP/EmPower technical inputs. Getting a seat at the table to change the existing policies across sectors was not a simple task (see output 3 results) and presented a key challenge and learnings.

UN Women led the preparation of national assessment reports with briefs for policymakers ([Bangladesh](#), [Cambodia](#), [Nepal](#) and [Viet Nam](#)) and an [ASEAN report](#) on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change,

establishing linkages between gender and climate change, examining existing policies and outlining specific recommendations for decision-makers. The project supported the policy development/ review process by providing technical support and allowing CSO partners to participate in the process. A series of capacity-building activities in the past four years were held to strengthen capacities of government agencies and create an enabling environment for gender-responsive and rights-based climate change and DRR. Government stakeholders highlighted the potential for more catalytic resourcing for their work on programmes, including policy research.

Interviewees expressed the need to consolidate, map out and communicate the nexus programme linkages between gender equality, human rights, climate change, DRR and renewable energy for positioning and resourcing, and expand sectoral programming and partnerships.

Enhanced collaboration across sectors would have been beneficial on joint normative work, engagement with CSOs and capacity development for women in decision-making roles, which were linked to the empowerment goals related to the renewable energy pilots (output 4). National work had started on policy and data collection research, but a gap was identified, for example, in the broader coordination across relevant sectors and actors. There was a consensus among stakeholders that EmPower can enhance governance and ownership across the key stakeholders and United Nations system partners. Some stakeholders expressed the need for expanding national partnerships and resources for broader and deeper sectoral, mainstreaming and targeting actions, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Output 4: Women are able to exercise rights to access and control economic resources, through renewable energy, to build resilient and transformative livelihoods

Partnerships of UNEP in this sector were mapped and built upon. UNEP partnered with provincial stakeholders (such as the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat in Cambodia, Viet Nam Women's Union, cooperative

alliances, CSOs and commune and provincial governments). UNEP supported them in strengthening their institutional capacity and understanding of the linkages between renewable energy and women's entrepreneurship as well as leveraging funding for renewable energy-based women's entrepreneurship projects. UNEP partnered with NGOs, such as Nexus For Development, CHASE and Green ID to enhance the understanding of the importance of involving financing institutions to promote renewable energy for the socioeconomic development of women and other vulnerable groups. EmPower collaborated with 18 small and micro-entrepreneurs in pilot countries. Through its renewable energy sector pilot work, EmPower aimed to connect local CSOs, communities and companies working in the renewable energy sector in the region. It generated evidence to influence and convince policymakers that changes in renewable energy (i.e. finance mechanisms) can contribute to

women's economic empowerment. Through the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat, gender was included in two provincial investment plans in Cambodia. Renewable energy for women's entrepreneurship activities had co-funding of more than \$300,000 (almost equal to the funds used for installing entrepreneurship projects on the ground). However, the case studies identified that this is in initial stages and more needs to be done to connect community-level pilots with policy change and enhance coordination of these aspects at the regional and national level.

The case study evidence pointed towards the pilot initiatives beginning to show changes in gender roles, behaviours and attitudes, yet this requires long-term commitment and action focusing on social norms change (see finding 6).

BOX 4: EmPower in Viet Nam: Good practice for replicating and scaling up renewable energy

In Viet Nam, EmPower helped cooperatives to build solar-energy glass drying houses. Participants in the community focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews reported that the installation of the drying house is easy to operate. Community members recounted numerous benefits of the solar energy drying house: the process is quicker, hygienic and productive. The cooperative dried their own products as well as the local communities' agricultural products (medicinal herbs, bamboo shoots and soybeans). Drying houses generate more jobs and income for women in the cooperative, contributing to financial self-sufficiency, including taking care of the family's living expenses and gradually paying debts. Women feel the change in the attitude within their families as they become successful and earn more income. Families are

happier and women have a stronger voice in the family. Respondents stated that the cooperative could reduce labour costs and increase revenue by building drying houses. Before installing the drying house, sun-drying required more workers to watch out for rain and take care of the product. Now the cooperative can assign workers to other jobs (such as cleaning flowers and tea leaves and separating flowers from the tea branch). The work in the cooperative is not so heavy and suitable for women; they can do it full-time or part-time (some women must work on their farms). The training modules were designed to support the women-led enterprises to manage more efficiently and effectively through existing capacity and future needs assessment. Management training courses helped the director and staff to enhance online sales.

Output 5: Regional normative processes, knowledge products and platforms on climate change and DRR integrate and enhance responsiveness to gender equality and human rights

Regional engagement through collaborative partnerships undertaken under the EmPower project were an excellent step towards the learning by doing together approach. The project identified the gaps in gender equality, human rights, climate change, DRR and renewable energy coordination, communication and knowledge sharing. EmPower mapped partners and entry points to influence regional processes, such as ASEAN, ICIMOD, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and ESCAP. It tapped into strategic emerging opportunities with partners for mainstreaming gender. A sample of these initiatives in collaboration with other organizations has been presented in table 4. Online training modules on gender equality, climate change adaptation and DRR were developed. Organizations interviewed found the online trainings were very informative, useful, systematic and methodological. For example, participants from the ASEAN region said the training

helped them to influence, draft and inform the regional policy directives. Many participants from the ASEAN region completed the online training, especially during COVID-19 travel restrictions, given the time flexibility. One key achievement was that UN Women and UNEP jointly contributed to the development of the ministerial outcome document and its section on “Environmental conservation, climate action and resilience building” adopted at the “Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review”. The adopted outcome document included commitments related to enhancing gender aspects of climate change. At the regional level, the EmPower team coordinated UN Women’s presence and contribution to the [8th session of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#), which reviewed the progress in implementation of the SDGs, in particular Goals 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17. The EmPower team contributed to the preparation of the profiles for each of these Goals and to the organization of the round tables during the Forum, ensuring that gender and social inclusion in the context of climate change and DRR were adequately mainstreamed.

TABLE 4: Sample of collaborative partnerships undertaken as part of EmPower efforts

Organizations	Examples of collaborative partnership
UN Women and UNEP	<p>Knowledge products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the country products such as assessment reports of the “State of Gender Equality and Climate Change” <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint collaborative regional side events during the Asia Pacific Climate Week • UN Women’s intervention at the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, organized by UNEP • Joint side event during the Generation Equality Forum organized by UNEP and the UN Women regional offices in Asia and the Pacific and Europe and Central Asia
UN Women, UNEP and ESCAP	<p>ESCAP assessed commitments to NDCs in the Asia-Pacific region following which UN Women, UNEP and ESCAP developed “Is 1.5°C within Reach for the Asia-Pacific Region? Ambition and Potential of NDC Commitments of the Asia-Pacific Countries Asia-Pacific”. It provided an enabling framework incorporating emission factors assessment and enabling factors assessment based on gender mainstreaming in climate policies, legislation, financing, measurement, reporting and verification of emissions and emissions reductions. UN Women published an atlas of global and regional contributions.</p> <p>A scenario-based assessment of the regional and country-level NDC commitments of countries in the Asia-Pacific region was completed, which was published and presented during the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC.</p>

Organizations	Examples of collaborative partnership
UN Women and UNFCCC	Shared best practices and lessons on mainstreaming gender in climate change and disaster management policies. UN Women provided information for UNFCCC virtual newsletters summarizing the latest publications and events on gender and climate change. For example, the knowledge products were highlighted in newsletters published in July and September 2021.
UN Women and UNDRR	Worked on strengthening regional and national capacities to link climate action and DRR. This included the ASEAN Forum on Gender, learning events in the region and training on disaster risk management in Cambodia and Viet Nam.
UN Women and Asia-Pacific Gender Stakeholder Group	Developed an advocacy paper with technical inputs for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 and the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2021–2024). This marked a positive qualitative shift in the new plan’s language, approach and actions for ensuring gender-responsive DRR in diverse sectors, such as livelihoods, social protection and infrastructure, that were missing in 2018–2020 plan.
UN Women and UNDP	Both agencies supported the Expert Reference Group and an Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) that provides guidance on knowledge products on gender integration in environment economic research to strategize on common key areas around gender and social inclusion in climate change.
UN Women and Edge Effect	The Only Way Is Up: Monitoring and Encouraging Diverse SOGIESC Inclusion in the Humanitarian and DRR Sectors is a study on the inclusion of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) in humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific (case studies on Bangladesh, Fiji and the Philippines). It provides a methodology to assess the inclusion of people with diverse SOGIESC in humanitarian action in the region. Review of humanitarian response plans, humanitarian needs overviews, post-disaster needs assessments and other documents on people with diverse SOGIESC.

The approach to implementation of the EmPower project was in the spirit of regional cooperation and partnership, working with key partners and mapping stakeholders for change at regional and national levels. The partnerships can now be reviewed, refined and expanded across levels and types for future coherence. Several interviewees suggest the project can have a more prominent role in climate change and disaster or resilience outcome groups of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (i.e. capacity-building, policy, networking and advocacy, resourcing, community work and data collection). More joint technical analysis and codification are needed for knowledge output/evidence from all the project outputs and communication of programme linkages and evidence gaps. This is necessary for scaling up, building on lessons learned to support a coherent model and theory of change for scaling up programmes at the country level. In general, the evaluators found

that the project had leveraged the countries’ evidence and gaps and providing recommendations. The project provided and produced strong knowledge products and technical services that have set a strong foundation for EmPower phase 2.

While the COVID-19 pandemic created an opportunity to deliver training programmes through online platforms, the concept of a regional knowledge services hub or regional knowledge platform for knowledge sharing did not emerge mainly due to resourcing issues; however, stakeholders shared a consensus that the project could benefit from the concept of a regional learning hub to ensure learning across the areas of work. The EmPower implementation approach needed regional sharing and platforms, including dialogue and debate, monitoring and guiding all the normative work, and coordinating the learning for engagement with key sectors and civil society representatives.



EFFECTIVENESS: TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE EMPOWER PROJECT CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED OUTCOME “COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ARE IMPLEMENTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRR ACTIONS TO ADDRESS KEY DRIVERS OF GENDER-BASED VULNERABILITIES”?

FINDING 5

Development of knowledge products, communications and leveraging of regional United Nations/ intergovernmental alliances were enabling strategies and provided the baseline for gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions at the regional and national level.

The climate-induced, hydrometeorological, geological disasters compounded by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic impeded or delayed project implementation (especially of community-level activities) and limited field movement and in-person engagement in 2020–2021 in the pilot countries. However, EmPower quickly adapted to the context. This was also enabled by the donor, Sida, providing additional funding to adapt the work to move to online and digital modalities. A large proportion of the project’s planned normative and capacity-building work, including the training for officials and CSOs and assessments of gender mainstreaming in legal and policy documents, were carried out online. However, some online training workshops at local levels were affected due to limited teacher-learner interactions and low access to computers. Women’s networks were mobilized through established online communication channels to deliver training to hard-to-reach women and girls.

a) Knowledge products and communication

The project teams provided good examples of knowledge management and related approaches for collecting, packaging, learning, scaling and selling the learning and evidence generated by the project. For instance, EmPower teams developed “[Impact of COVID-19 on Women in the Blue Economy](#)” and contributed to a think-piece on gender and climate change in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which included analysis, position papers and policy recommendations for States and partners based on EmPower’s work and implications of the pandemic on gender equality and climate change. The project also conducted rapid socioeconomic assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on rural households and women entrepreneurs in project areas in each pilot country (Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam). It helped the project team and wider audiences to understand the impact of the pandemic and how the project activities can be adapted/realigned to address the impact of the pandemic on women and girls.

The communications work in 2020–2021 focused on targeting women grappling with the double impact of

the climate change crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and advocating for their rights. The project messaging amplified the urgent need for gender-responsive climate action in the context of COVID-19. It did this by releasing information, education and communication materials on the impact of COVID-19 at all levels and across channels, including the grassroots and national levels, at significant global conferences and on corporate social media channels. The project highlighted a strategic place in climate-resilient recovery debates through media engagement and the use of digital channels to raise awareness of the importance of gender integration in climate change adaptation and mitigation, renewable energy and DRR. For example, in Bangladesh, 22,000 text messages and 19,500 cases of outbound dialling for agro-advisory on climate-resilient agriculture were produced and disseminated among women-led CSOs and women farmers for cyclone preparedness.

b) Leveraging regional United Nations/inter-governmental alliances

EmPower uniquely utilized the regional United Nations Asia-Pacific Issue Based Coalitions (IBCs), which provided excellent positioning for United Nations system mainstreaming across thematic areas. The UN Women-UNEP joint work on gender and climate used the IBC networks to communicate information across regional United Nations offices. Besides this, EmPower has been showcased at many regional climate change and DRR conferences (during the side events, dedicated sessions and panels) to reach out to other non-United Nations and governmental partners.

EmPower initiated several pioneering projects and has started to fill critical gaps in the institutional needs of regional intergovernmental processes in the ASEAN region to mainstream gender, including women’s economic empowerment in DRR, climate change adaptation and renewable energy. EmPower followed the dual strategy of integrating gender equality and human rights aspects in DRR, climate change and renewable energy. The project provided technical advice and facilitation support in developing the State

of Gender Equality in climate change adaptation and DRR reports in ASEAN countries – [Cambodia](#) and [Viet Nam](#) – and an [ASEAN report](#), which has the potential to contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework, five-year DRR and climate change adaptation workplans of the ASEAN Committee on Women and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and their monitoring and evaluation. Due to the process undertaken on the development of the report, members of ASEAN and sectoral bodies have made commitments to advance recommendations. The countries will prepare their plans, annual M&E reports and follow-up reports.

In parallel, climate change was incorporated into the gender policy framework and the United Nations-ASEAN joint climate change workplan. The work of UNEP on renewable energy mainstreaming with the ASEAN Center on Energy is the first step and a

concrete way forward for mainstreaming gender in energy. Before EmPower, there was no regional guidance for gender in the ASEAN energy sector. ASEAN did not have an internal coordination process, and the ASEAN Center on Energy was not involved in the regional/subregional work on gender. With UNEP support, the ASEAN Center on Energy is doing the following: a) mainstreaming gender equality in energy policy in ASEAN member States; b) publishing a policy brief (regional perspectives) on gender equality in renewable energy policy in the ASEAN region; and c) organizing workshops to seek acknowledgment of the road map from ASEAN member States. The road map was planned to be launched by August 2022. Opinion articles were being drafted to promote the road map and Viet Nam Low Emission Energy Program. The gender focal points across the ASEAN centres and committees will require more convening and facilitation support from EmPower (UN Women and UNEP).



GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE RESULTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE REALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY NORMS AND AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS NATIONAL AND LOCAL STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER QUALITY?

FINDING
6

EmPower has worked at both the individual and institutional levels to raise awareness and stimulate actions for gender equality within the complex space of climate change, DRR and renewable energy. Moving forward, EmPower could advocate for increased representation of women in DRR and climate change adaptation structures and mechanisms through an enhanced focus on social norms change and strengthen its approach to reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized groups at the grassroots level through targeting strategies.

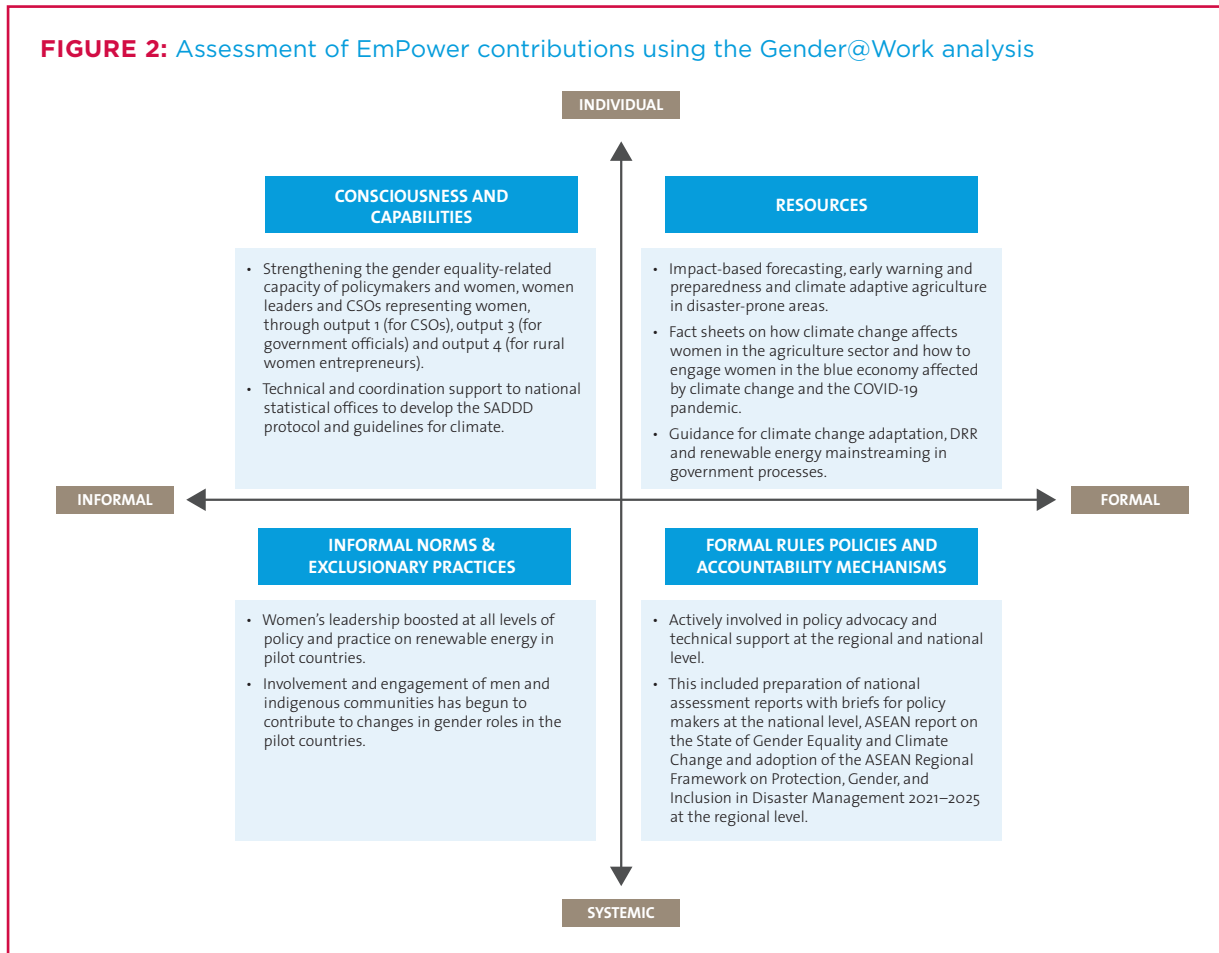
Figure 3 provides a broad snapshot of the contributions of EmPower to human rights and gender equality in the context of DRR, climate change and environment (renewable energy) using the Gender@Work Analysis.

Access to resources: The project introduced impact-based forecasting, early warning and preparedness and climate adaptive agriculture in disaster-prone areas. An example of good practice is how UN Women Bangladesh, in partnership with Practical Action, provided livelihood training on climate adaptive crop varieties and techniques, marketing, agro-advisory, impact-based forecasting with early warning information to the women farmers and

women CSO leaders in the EmPower project areas, Kurigram (flood-prone) and Satkhira (cyclone-prone). Grassroots women-led CSOs and women farmers now have access to agro-advisory and preparedness information. According to UN Women reports, 22,000 text messages and 19,500 outbound dealing (a form of voice message for those who cannot read) on agro-meteorology and disaster preparedness were transmitted to 14 women-led CSOs, and 1,474 women farmers on a pilot basis. National help for agro-information has been promoted in the project areas. As a result of preparedness and early warning messages and information provided by the project,

women farmers and CSO leaders were better prepared for cyclone Jawad in December 2021 and the 2021 monsoon flood. Fact sheets were released on how climate change affects women in the agriculture sector and how women affected by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic can be engaged in the

blue economy. See finding 4 for information on guidance and training on climate change adaptation and DRR mainstreaming (UN Women) and finding 8 for information on mainstreaming in the renewable energy sector.



Note: Gender@Work is recognized by academics, NGOs and development organizations as one of the leading frameworks through which to assess gender equality and women's empowerment. The framework consists of four quadrants divided by intersecting formal-informal and individual-systemic axes. The top two quadrants are related to the individual: on the right, "formal" refers to more tangible changes in individual conditions, such as increased access to resources, voice, and freedom from violence. On the "informal" left hand side lie changes to individual consciousness and capabilities, including knowledge and awareness, skills, and commitment to change. The bottom two clusters are related to broader systems: the lower right refers to formal rules and policies as stipulated through laws, regulations and international commitments. The cluster on the left is the set of deep structures and culture that underlie informal norms and exclusionary practices, including those that maintain inequality in everyday practices.

Consciousness and capabilities: Integration of human rights and gender equality in the climate change and DRR agenda was done by strengthening the gender equality-related capacity of policymakers and women, women leaders and CSOs representing women, through output 1 (for CSOs), output 3 (for government officials) and output 4 (for rural women entrepreneurs). For example, in Viet Nam, due to the partnership with UN Women, UNEP reached out to women-led CSOs, including Viet Nam Women's Network which has 6.5 million women members in the country. The project reported supporting a stronger voice and representation of women's rights CSOs and grassroots women in climate change and DRR policymaking, including in high-level conferences, such as COP26. EmPower provided technical and coordination support to national statistical offices to develop the SADDD protocol and guidelines for climate change adaptation and DRR with the participation of the relevant government line ministries. The "Framework and Tool for Measuring Women's Leadership and Meaningful Participation in DRR" was prepared on why women's leadership is important in DRR and how the tool can be utilized to map progress, identify behavioural patterns, establish good practices and catalyse changes on the ground. The framework and tools were validated and shaped during a [listening session with women's groups](#) on the Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021–2024 for implementing the Sendai Framework.

Formal rules, policies and accountability: The project actively supported and led efforts on policy advocacy and technical support at the regional and national level (see finding 4). This included, for example, preparation of national assessment reports with briefs for policymakers at the national level. At the ASEAN regional level, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management adopted the [ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Disaster Management 2021–2025](#) with the support of UN Women, Sida and ECHO. The Framework serves as the strategy for implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021–2025. It outlines 28 target actions that link disaster management, gender-based violence, child protection, disability inclusion and gender.

Informal norms and exclusionary practices: EmPower was an attempt to coherently consider the linkages and build capacity for actions across the key barriers/drivers. Energeia, an implementing partner hired at regional level by UNEP, conducted extensive and detailed gender and poverty assessments and reports for all the communities and sites, overlaying it on the poverty index and looking at many different variables. This work helped support EmPower teams in selecting the sites for the project and navigating the different contexts in the pilot countries, including gender roles, key challenges and the environmental context, climate change impacts and criteria for selecting women entrepreneurs. In many parts of the region, women are the energy managers at the household level, but they are not involved, consulted or engaged in energy policymaking. Women's leadership on renewable energy was boosted at all levels of policy and practice in the pilots, resulting in a change in women's socioeconomic status and leadership within communities as identified through the case study visits. The pilots show emerging evidence of changes in social norms and behaviour following the introduction of renewable energy and economic empowerment initiatives in communities. Part of the approach in pilot countries was to involve and engage men and indigenous communities in the work while recognizing power dynamics. In Viet Nam, for example, EmPower included indigenous communities and it was a success as identified by the evaluation case study field visit. Further, focus group discussions and key informant interviews with beneficiaries, communities and CSOs from Viet Nam reflect some changes in gender roles within the community since the project began. For instance, previously, microbial organic fertilizer production was women's work. After the project, men have been involved in the process and tasks such as collecting banana trees and assembling machines to chop the banana tree. In the past, men did not take part in straw-burning activities in the field as it was perceived as women's work. Now men help to transport the straw and collect water hyacinths for compost production.

Despite this progress across the Gender@work framework, challenges regarding social norms persist, compounded by the absence of women in DRR and climate change adaptation structures and mechanisms within countries. Negative attitudes are predominant in male-centred professions, including energy and disaster risk management for climate-induced disasters and emergency sectors, especially at local levels. Given that men, including those from military backgrounds, dominate the managerial and technical positions in areas related to climate change, environment and disaster risk management, rigid social attitudes and norms on human rights, and gender equality require long-term commitments to realize transformative change. Some respondents said they were not getting enough traction to prioritize gender-responsiveness in climate change, DRR and environment sectors, noting that women are perceived as victims rather than active agents of change. Even though there are very active women's groups, they are often ignored and overshadowed by policymakers at the national level. It was reported, for example, in Viet Nam, that local women do not attend meetings on the response to climate-induced disasters such as floods and flash floods. The hamlet's flood prevention committee notifies the women and vulnerable groups about any decisions made. Further, even though national machineries for the advancement of women and women's rights organizations have knowledge and ideas about promoting gender equality, they find it hard to access resources from the Government as well as external donors due to the lack of information and ability to apply for funds

The case study visits identified that there was scope for more inclusion of persons across varying economic brackets and persons with disabilities. For example, work on women's economic inclusion in the renewable energy space assumes some level of competencies and access to finance to support the work and benefits for all. In Cambodia, for instance, some women did not participate due to the perceived requirement of high investments to co-finance the solar power equipment. The renewable energy projects worked with older women but did not include people with disabilities. More targeting and work on defining vulnerability is needed (including work through a demonstration on bridging the community work) for policy and education, behaviour change and social norms. Stakeholders identified the need for a standard vulnerability assessments to help technically integrate gender equality, DRR, climate change and the environment (renewable energy). Such an assessment tool would help during the inception phase or project preparation period to establish the country baselines for targeting beneficiaries.

Stakeholders also reported that the knowledge products as well as the technical guidance work on monitoring standards and assessments needs to include and showcase lived experiences of the affected communities from the most vulnerable and marginalized gender and disability groups across its intersectionality, ensuring that no one is left behind. Issues were raised about the broader targeting for these group's inclusion in the programme for policy change. For instance, evidence from the pilot is tailored to support further policy change, such as bridging advocacy work between pilots and national policies so it is essential that the programme is targeted.



EFFICIENCY: HAVE UN WOMEN AND UNEP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES, MANAGERIAL SUPPORT AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED THE COHERENT DELIVERY OF THE PROJECT? THIS SHOULD INCLUDE STRUCTURES AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE UN WOMEN AND UNEP USED THEIR HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY? WERE FUNDS RECEIVED/DISBURSED ON TIME? WHY OR WHY NOT?

FINDING 7

UNEP and UN Women delivered on their respective and joint outputs in a timely manner and within the budget with limited yet efficient project personnel. There was a need for expansion of project personnel to achieve the project's ambitious goal of collaborating with a variety of regional and national development partners and providing them with cross-cutting technical support.

UNEP and UN Women delivered on their respective and joint outputs within budget and on time, even with a long inception period of nine months and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The budget changed due to currency fluctuations – this was a challenge. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sida generously provided more funding to convert and adapt the nexus training for Government and partners into an online training programme. The total budget was initially \$9.4 million. In November 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sida allocated additional funding of \$708,912 to accelerate the project results and impacts of the pandemic.

EmPower had two project management units, one based at the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and one at UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The project management unit at UN Women included a project manager and a project associate on full-time contracts. The staffing included a coordinator for each of the three pilot countries. During the implementation, two Junior Professional Officers supported the project at different periods. The project received support from a United Nations Volunteer for administrative work. The UNEP management unit included a full-time project manager supported by communications and experts on renewable energy on shorter contract agreements. The budget split was reported to support the hierarchy established for project management and the output based technical work allocations. Project designers established a hierarchy with the P-4 Manager at UN Women and P-3 at UNEP. An informal agreement was in place on the internal coordination process, its scope, frequency and reporting process by UNEP to UN Women. Establishing the project management arrangements and other key details were very important in enabling the success of the joint partnership at the regional level.

The project management team was collaborative and worked with many partners and across many sectors, but the project staff was limited. Stakeholders

expressed that the project officers in charge were overstretched with how much technical support they could provide while also administratively managing the project. The project needed human resources at the regional level, as well as managerial mechanisms and platforms for intersectoral coordination at both the regional and country levels. Evaluators learned that the underlying assumption was that a simple management structure integrating a project management unit within each United Nations agency (UN Women and UNEP) would support messaging and capacity-building internally, thereby enhancing potential for mainstreaming of each of the respective areas. To some extent, stakeholders say internal mainstreaming has happened, but in practice, the scope of needs for cross-cutting services was significant. The ambitious knowledge-building project could have been more efficient with cross-cutting support services (i.e. knowledge management and learning platforms, communications, partnerships, resource mobilization, advocacy, and monitoring) and dedicated technical support for the technical themes involved in the nexus (i.e. gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy).

By design, EmPower included a steering committee at the regional level. The participants in the regional steering committee included representatives of collaborating international NGOs, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental institutions, governments and CSOs. With pilot work ongoing in three countries, governance – meaning joint CSO, Government and United Nations ownership and coordination – was considered to be essential for knowledge building, sharing and capacity development needs for impact-level results – policy changes and or changes in existing climate change, DRR and renewable energy programmes. The interviewees involved reported their participation at the annual regional meetings as a positive aspect of their experience. In addition to the governance role, the steering committee, was the only forum for regional knowledge sharing and learning from good

practices. At the country level, similar governance and coordination arrangements were not set up. As the project was normative and involved partnering with a high number of stakeholders engaged in gender equality, human rights, DRR, climate change and renewable energy, including CSOs; key stakeholders suggested the regional project steering committee

meetings might also emphasize the role of women's participation in the economy, economic impact, funding for women's issues and finding high-level champions in the region for the gender empowerment agenda, such as Ban ki-Moon, the President of Fiji and women leaders in the region.



EFFICIENCY: HAVE UN WOMEN AND UNEP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES, MANAGERIAL SUPPORT AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED THE COHERENT DELIVERY OF THE PROJECT? THIS SHOULD INCLUDE STRUCTURES AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE UN WOMEN AND UNEP USED THEIR HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY? WERE FUNDS RECEIVED/DISBURSED ON TIME? WHY OR WHY NOT?

FINDING
8

While project planning, monitoring and reporting was completed as per the project plan, there was scope for more rigorous and integrated monitoring strategies to holistically capture project results with potential to scale up.

The M&E officer was based at UN Women and prepared the annual progress report, donor report and other reports by synthesizing progress reported by UN Women country offices, UNEP and the other responsible parties with the UN Women and UNEP project managers. The UN Women focal point prepared the project's annual workplan in close coordination with the UNEP and UN Women country offices, and other responsible parties. The annual workplans were shared with and approved by Sida. Interim financial reports were submitted to Sida every six months. Moreover, the team held regular meetings to provide progress updates and share key challenges in implementation. A staff member of UN Women helped to set up the monitoring system for tracking the results (vetted by evaluators) and trained the project staff. The project manager carried out monitoring oversight, and technical as well as project management responsibilities.

The project mid-term review was completed early in the process, and its focus was on evaluability. It did not do any major course correction and only made cosmetic changes to the logical framework. Most recommendations that were provided were addressed, apart from the recommendation to hold debriefing meetings with project steering committee members in the country.

However, stakeholders noted the need for stronger strategies for convening and technically monitoring the outputs at the regional and national levels for holistic oriented results (i.e. data collection, mainstreaming, monitoring, evidence for policy). Interviewees reported needing full-time M&E for the large work output on adaptive management and coordination needs. Capturing good practices on what did and did not work was essential to generate guidance for the nexus and to support a scalable model for change. Further, evaluators learned stakeholders had underreported results. This was perceived to be linked to the limited number of outcomes identified in the theory of change.

Additionally, while there was some adaptive management (in particular to COVID-19) (see finding 2), coordination was needed between UN Women and UNEP for results monitoring. Stakeholders reported the project needed to better coordinate knowledge outputs from the pilot countries and further joint work upstream on all normative products. Mechanisms were needed for joint partnerships across the outputs for learning, monitoring and coordination and knowledge sharing. This was perceived as a gap by interviewees. They reported the need for mechanisms for expanding on the monitoring of outputs with the implementing partners, and some partners were unaware of what other partners contributed to reports on the state of the environment.

FINDING
9

EmPower initiatives, such as policy reviews, messaging and positioning and development of knowledge products, have positive spill-over effects which will carry forward beyond the completion of the project. Additional funding to continue capacity-building with CSOs and the Government can ensure that these efforts are institutionalized moving forward.

The value-add of the EmPower approach was to focus on gender mainstreaming in policies on climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy) and provide support for identifying new indicators and targets in climate change and DRR policies. The evaluation found that the work on policy review, messaging and positioning has been successfully initiated in the Asia-Pacific region for DRR and climate change and in ASEAN for renewable energy and climate change. Asia-Pacific regional plans and pilot countries adopted gender-responsive policies on climate change, DRR and renewable energy. Some of these works are pioneering, for example, EmPower has been working consistently with the Asia-Pacific Gender Stakeholder Group and brought visible change in regional policies and plans for DRR. Previously the concept of gender in energy did not exist in ASEAN. EmPower has been working with various units within ASEAN, such as gender, climate change and DRR, and energy, to collaborate and develop road maps for gender in the energy sector and climate change. More effort is needed to bridge the evidence from the community needs and lived experiences with the policies and programme activities at the subnational and national levels.

Knowledge products (see annex 8) developed under the project have supported facilitation, research and learning. These include methodologies, guidance and research which can be continuously used by stakeholders even after the project is concluded. This has increased awareness about the impact and role of women in preparing and responding to protracted crises, such as climate change, slow- and sudden-onset crises and disasters due to natural and human-made causes. Risk mitigation of renewable energy enterprises and capacity-building of women entrepreneurs are also contributing to sustainability in this priority nexus area.

The training programmes undertaken as part of capacity-building efforts have resulted in the development of close working relationships with regional, national and grassroots organizations and with the various line ministries within each pilot country. However, there is an urgent need for an integrated and streamlined project monitoring mechanism (to capture good practices, gaps and lessons learned) and resourcing framework to build collective institutional understanding and capacity on gender mainstreaming in climate change, DRR and energy sector policies. It can be achieved with close collaboration between UNEP, UN Women, partners and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Teams.

Women in the region possess inadequate livelihood capital, particularly human and financial capacity. Commitments on access to funding need to be accompanied with the consolidated evidence and learning from the knowledge products in the pilot countries. In some cases, there has been an explicit commitment from duty bearers, including establishing of funding mechanisms in renewable energy. For example, funding schemes were established through stakeholder consultations for women-led enterprises working on renewable energy and climate resilient livelihoods in three provinces in Viet Nam through the provincial Women's Union and the Central Viet Nam Women's Union. In this regard, internal and external budgets should be scaled up in countries in the region. Stakeholders suggest that more work with the central bank of each country might be the key to success in scaling the need for microcredit. For women's economic empowerment, the Cambodia model for microcredit financing can be further explored and shared (see annex 4, Cambodia case study).



Photo: UNEP/Reza Shariar Rahman

3 LESSONS LEARNED

Key lessons learned from programme implementation are summarized below.



1. Intergovernmental bodies are key for mainstreaming and engagement work – An intergovernmental body or institution on sustainable economic development is an important asset for coordination and capacity-building to further the aims of cross-sectoral work in countries and across the region.



2. Timing and adaptiveness of technical advice in support of policy level change is critical, and it may be more effective to provide advice on new policies rather than revising past policies – The project team changed their approach when they determined that they were not so easily invited into a policy review process. The approach was revised to influence the progressive work instead of revising past work, which was ultimately successful.



3. Gender statistics for climate change and DRR is an emerging field requiring further attention – National data related to climate change and disasters is still not disaggregated by sex, piloting proposed indicators has been a good way to make progress at national level. To test proposed indicators in Bangladesh, EmPower conducted a pilot survey in partnership with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on the collection of SADDD for climate change adaptation and DRR in. The pilot survey highlighted the need for credible real-time SADDD, the demand for which has increased from policymakers, healthcare workers and the general public during the COVID-19 pandemic. It served to improve the knowledge and understanding of the issues, challenges and solutions in collecting SADDD for DRR, CCA and enhanced resilience.



4. Financing for women's economic empowerment and business in livelihood activities related to renewable energy, climate change and DRR – To expand renewable energy opportunities, financing opportunities for women and micro- and small enterprises will need to be prioritized. The recovery of the local community requires small loans and small investments. Decentralization is needed to empower rural people while engaging in the economy sustainably.



5. Opportunity for post-COVID-19 recovery advocacy work – UN Women and UNEP, with the help of ESCAP and other United Nations partners, should continue to advocate for a green COVID-19 recovery that creates jobs and pushes NDC targets and carbon-neutrality.



Integrating the gender, climate change, DRR and renewable energy nexus for results requires an integrated, holistic approach – EmPower contributed to the knowledge base on the linkages between the issues of gender equality, human rights, climate change and DRR and renewable energy work programmes. More is needed to firmly build bridges, including raising awareness and capacity to address the linkages between these issues in terms of policy and actions on the ground.



6. Enhanced understanding on the humanitarian-development nexus of DRR linkages with climate change and gender equality – Right from the beginning, the EmPower project team should have convened DRR, climate change and gender experts for joint planning and support for integrating these sectors into DRR and development policies, plans and structures. As a result, UNEP missed the opportunity to mainstream these issues in national and subnational DRR policies and plans.



Photo: UNEP/Maxwell Gutteridge

4

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The presentation of the preliminary findings and discussion on the way forward with members of the Evaluation Reference Group took place in June 2022 and informed the final recommendations presented below. The recommendations were reviewed by the Evaluation Management Group and the Evaluation Reference Group, and subsequent changes were integrated as appropriate. The level of priority and suggested time frame for implementation are indicated below the recommendation. Feedback from the Evaluation Management Group and the Evaluation Reference Group on factual errors in the evaluation report was tracked for transparency.



CONCLUSION 1: RELEVANCE

BASED ON FINDINGS 1, 2 AND 3

The EmPower project was highly relevant to the priorities and needs of the pilot countries, and it was more broadly relevant to the region on the basis of its alignment with internationally agreed normative commitments. The EmPower project set the stage for continued work on understanding and supporting development partners to respond to the intersection of gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy in the Asia-Pacific region. While a highly relevant area of work, the project demonstrated that long-term commitment is needed to see progress towards addressing key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities on climate change and DRR.

The aim of the project was difficult to achieve given that the integration of gender equality and human rights perspectives was essentially non-existent in technical areas that are also attempting to enhance integration and coherence: climate change and DRR. The project remained relevant within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting approaches and focusing on the development of research and knowledge that has fed into an important baseline for gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions at the regional and national level. To maintain relevance, there is opportunity to position the project to contribute to post COVID-19 recovery work both regionally and nationally.



CONCLUSION 2: COHERENCE

BASED ON FINDING 3

UNEP and UN Women have forged a partnership that provides a unique opportunity to jointly promote, build capacity and raise awareness on the nexus between gender equality, climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy). By combining resources, technical expertise and access to partners in government and civil society, UN Women and UNEP were able to further develop an area of work that is not well understood and garner commitment from key actors. Much work remains to ensure coherence of efforts across these technical areas. Future efforts will need to ensure that programme design and management arrangements support conceptual coherence.

Enhancing understanding and capacity within United Nations agencies (for example UNDP and FAO, etc.) about the nexus arguments would support buy-in and support scaling up, and in turn, enhance awareness of other actors. For the upstream normative work and capacity-building formalized partnerships between UNEP, UN Women, the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and other United Nations agencies should be prioritized.

There is a continued need to demonstrate what works, continue research across the region and enhance coordination for the nexus between gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy results. Strengthening the execution modalities for joint programme implementation would enhance the value-added of this collaborative work on the nexus.



RECOMMENDATION

1

BASED ON CONCLUSIONS 1 AND 2 - RELEVANCE AND COHERENCE):

Building on UN Women-UNEP value added in the nexus of gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy, review and articulate the theory of change to ensure the project clearly leverages the cross-sectoral nature of work and that goals are adapted to the COVID-19 context. Engage United Nations partners and external partners to enhance coherence and streamline synergies across sectors and clearly embed the project within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

SUGGESTED KEY ACTIONS:

- Adjust the project design to respond adequately in view of changes to the development landscape on DRR and gender, which has been altered dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project should take into account new and emerging vulnerabilities in light of the cascading crises in disaster-prone regions.
- Review the theory of change and clearly articulate the feedback loops between the different areas of work. Phase 2 project design should focus on strengthening the linkages and pathways of change between outputs to clearly demonstrate to external stakeholders the value-added of the joint partnership between UN Women and UNEP.
- Develop a United Nations partnership strategy for extending partnerships to other United Nations agencies at both the regional and country level to broaden the value-added on nexus approach across agencies and sectors.
- Cross-sector coordination with the United Nations Country Team working groups and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for broader consultation on the country action plan and targeting would also help to enhance national ownership.
- Conduct comprehensive risk-informed planning built on partnerships for mainstreaming both within each sector and across sectors. A coherent mapping of external partners and clarification on the type of engagement with each unit/level of government would be helpful to ensure that UN Women and UNEP are not duplicating tasks and/or reaching out to the same external stakeholders.



PRIORITY: HIGH



TIME FRAME: Q4 2022



RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS: UN Women and UNEP programme managers and senior management; country level leads in coordination with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and other United Nations partners.



CONCLUSION 3: EFFECTIVENESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY

BASED ON FINDINGS 4, 5, 7 AND 8

The EmPower project has made key contributions towards the ultimate outcome of addressing key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities through the implementation of climate change and DRR and renewable energy actions: primarily, EmPower has dealt with a critical knowledge gap around the evidence and programme linkages across the nexus. Yet this is just the beginning of a long journey for UN Women and UNEP – much more work is needed to consolidate, deepen and expand efforts. As a regional joint programmes of a cross-cutting nature, the project will require intense joint strategic planning, administration and a joint result monitoring framework at both the regional and country level covering the entire nexus of gender equality, climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy) to enhance effectiveness and organizational efficiency.

As the programme is being carried out in a challenging space and with an ambitious goal, moving forward, UN Women and UNEP should plan for joint resource mobilization and partnerships or joint programmes with other UN agencies that would allow the efforts to scale up and out. A horizontal management approach, which may require more time, would ensure that time is dedicated to understanding and reviewing progress across the different elements of the project to ensure that synergies are leveraged and capitalized upon – feeding into organizational efficiency and economies of scale. To support this, more resources for a regional hub may be needed with both technical staff and staff to support the different functions (administrative, communications, monitoring and reporting, and knowledge management). Dedicated cross-output management, monitoring and reporting will need to be facilitated at the country level.

The EmPower project has established a solid approach that reaches across key technical areas and supports change among key stakeholders who can catalyse results. Much work remains to be done, to enhance the understanding of the nexus. This will require

continued research, technical guidance and deepened linkages across these technical areas, codifying efforts so that they can be learned from, and scaled up and out. There is scope for EmPower to scale up in pilot countries and expand to other countries with technical assistance and south-south cooperation.

While CSOs have been mobilized, more will need to be done to ensure women are able to meaningfully lead and participate in and ultimately influence climate change and DRR decision-making processes. The efforts at the community level (such as the renewable energy pilots) are important for understanding the challenges on the ground and these efforts can be better linked with the opportunities for leadership (output 1) and ensuring that the lessons learned inform policy level efforts (output 3) so that women's voices are taken into consideration and inform policy. This will ultimately support women to exercise their rights to access and control resources to build resilient and transformative livelihoods at a larger scale.

EmPower has established an important baseline and made progress on the establishment of indicators to support Governments and key stakeholders to generate SADD, yet much more is needed to ensure comprehensive data are generated and capacity is built to analyse and use data to inform climate change and disaster risks and actions from a gender equality perspective. Partnering with other programmes (e.g. UN Women's Women Count) and other United Nations agencies will deepen these efforts – ensuring linkages across the SDGs -- and facilitate access to different ministries (statistical agencies) and stakeholders that other United Nations agencies bring. Research on the impacts of policy, especially, linkages with other sectors will be needed, such as in sectors, such as food security, livelihoods, renewable energy and social protection, that are crucial for the survival of the most vulnerable people and poorest communities. Research on impact can utilize and build upon lessons learned through lived experiences from pilots at the community level, such as the renewable energy pilot.

While policymakers at the national level have enhanced awareness and have made progress on commitments and actions to mainstream gender in climate change and DRR, there is much room for ensuring the skillsets are institutionalized and progress is monitored across the nexus at national level for learning and accountability purposes. With

respect to regional normative processes, progress was made in the development of knowledge products – and moving forward more can be done to ensure integrated approaches to coordination and knowledge sharing on climate change and DRR ensuring responsiveness to gender equality and human rights. Effective strategies for gender mainstreaming will be addressed on a country-by-country basis. In the future there might be an opportunity to suggest an overarching policy on gender mainstreaming in the sector according to social and economic policy arguments that may come from this project. There is a need for a high-level technical advisory working group to further vet and refine the monitoring standards and raise the work regionally and even globally.



RECOMMENDATION

2

Enhance project governance and coordination across regional and country levels and across outputs at regional and country levels and establish an integrated approach to monitoring to help to tell the story of the impact of the project. Establish an EmPower regional knowledge hub that focuses on building knowledge sharing platforms and consolidating the knowledge produced through EmPower phase 1. In line with these actions, continue building resource mobilization and co-financing strategies to ensure the effectiveness of these efforts.

- Ensure individual agency roles and the modalities of working together jointly at the regional and country levels are clear and mirror the conceptual synergies across sectors.
- Establish a regional knowledge hub on gender equality, climate change, DRR and renewable energy. Consolidate knowledge products to inform evidence-based policymaking, strengthen CSO knowledge base and networks in the nexus area. Conduct a full joint technical review of all the final knowledge products across the outputs to address the needs for convergence and knowledge outputs consolidation before phase 2.
- Consider establishing communities of practice at UN Women and UNEP. Optimize governance and coordination by mirroring the regional governance arrangement in country, by setting up joint execution and oversight by both agencies of all the normative, capacity-building and technical assistance.

- The model for co-financing and resource mobilization should be scaled up and out to ensure organizational efficiency and effectiveness; and the exit strategy for the renewable energy pilot should be defined. With an expanded resource base (engaging interests of more donors) dedicate additional resources for project staff to ensure personnel at the regional and country levels are not overstretched.
- Continue effective communication and messaging on the nexus theme to garner the interest of potential donors while raising awareness among key stakeholders.
- The monitoring framework should allow for an integrated approach that enables monitoring across agencies and outputs in real time.



PRIORITY: HIGH



TIME FRAME: Q4 2022



RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS: UN
Women and UNEP programme managers and senior management; country level leads in coordination with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and other United Nations partners.



RECOMMENDATION

3

Review approaches at both regional and national levels, including at community, subnational levels, that will enhance the effectiveness of coordination and implementation. Continue building relationships with ASEAN and other regional bodies by deepening efforts across sectors and furthering research and advocacy.

- Promote the establishment of a coordination or governance mechanism at both regional and national levels to help coordinate across the sectors (and engage United Nations agencies to support the mechanisms through relevant regional bodies and/or line ministries).
- Promote institutionalization of gender-responsive trainer-of-trainer capacity development approach for climate change, DRR and the environment (renewable energy).

- Collaborate with human rights-related line ministries and departments to systematically mainstream the aim of leaving no one behind by applying intersectional analyses to all climate change adaptation, DRR and environment (renewable energy) actions.
- Continue supporting national actors to develop/adopt or revise gender in DRR, climate change adaptation and environment (renewable energy) laws and regulations, including for budgeting as necessary.
- Support the conduct of deeper sectoral assessments for gender equality, climate change adaptation, DRR and the environment at the regional, national, subnational and community level to inform public policy. The assessments should match the country and community context and address multiple drivers of risks besides climate change-induced disasters.



PRIORITY: MEDIUM



TIME FRAME: Q4 2023



RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS: UN
Women and UNEP programme managers and country level leads in coordination with national partners and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and other United Nations partners.



CONCLUSION 4: HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

BASED ON FINDINGS 6 AND 9

EmPower is a flagship United Nations project in the Asia-Pacific region highlighting the need to mainstream gender equality across the climate change, DRR and renewable energy nexus. EmPower has clearly contributed to making the case by raising awareness and capacity on why a gender equality perspective is critical and how governments, civil society and the United Nations system can ensure progress towards addressing key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities using human rights-based approaches. To accelerate change, clearer strategies for targeting vulnerable and marginalized

groups, including persons with disabilities, and tackling the deep social norms change required for transformative change across the climate change nexus will be needed.

There is always room to enhance efforts aimed at transformative change. EmPower can be more focused on stimulating longer-term change related to power dynamics and gender roles that inhibit women's participation in decision-making and access to resources. A deeper focus and strategy on how to tackle social norms change will be needed to advance this work. More focus is needed on targeting strategies at the community level, and analyses can more explicitly identify and clearly articulate who the vulnerable and excluded groups are and how they experience intersectional discrimination. More work is needed to bridge the gap between policy and practice in the most vulnerable communities. Global standards should be used for statistics and data collection for the nexus, and to monitor and assess multidimensional poverty and vulnerability to ensure targeting strategies are appropriate. In the long term, gender analysis is critical to formulate and monitor gender-responsive DRR and disaster risk management, and recovery and mitigation strategies.

The ultimate goal is to build capacity and generate evidence for links between gender equality and human rights, climate change, disasters, behaviours and actions, but this takes time. EmPower will be sustainable when people and society are capacitated and understand the problem. A focus on sustainability will also require financial sustainability of the efforts by refining existing exit strategies (especially for the renewable energy pilot), internal and external fundraising, as well as seeking co-financing partners and expansion of mainstreaming to other sectors.

 **RECOMMENDATION** **4**

Develop a more targeted and explicit approach to social norms change and identification and engagement of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, in the context of the programme and in consultation with partners.

- Collaborate with the human rights related line ministries and departments to systematically mainstream leaving no one behind applying an intersectional approach to all actions on climate change adaptation, DRR and the environment (renewable energy).

- Develop a model assessment tool for economic and social vulnerability and exclusion, and develop advocacy messages for partners on its broader benefits. Define concretely what vulnerability means across the nexus (in both social and economic terms) and who the most vulnerable and excluded groups are within each programmatic context. This will require analyses that identify how women and different groups (e.g. persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, persons with disabilities, older people, migrant and informal workers, stateless people, indigenous people, ethnic and religious minorities, refugees, asylum-seekers, landless and urban poor and people living with HIV) are affected across different identities and this should feed into a programmatic targeting strategy.
- Use the pilots to demonstrate what works at the community level to change power dynamics and ensure it feeds into evidence-based decision-making.
- Include the most vulnerable and marginalized women and girls by empowering them and their representatives to participate meaningfully in policy discussions at all levels (subnational governments and communities), bridging national upstream and downstream approaches to transformative change. Explore ways CSOs representing vulnerable groups, including rural women and women farmers and women with disabilities, can be engaged in consultations about the programmatic approach in the climate change and disaster context. Encourage informal meetings of representatives from marginalized groups at the community level, in addition to the formal forums that EmPower facilitates.

 **PRIORITY: MEDIUM**

 **TIME FRAME: Q2 2023**


 **RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS: UN**
Women and UNEP programme managers and personnel.



Photo: UNEP/Andrew Ball

5 ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.

LIST OF COLLABORATING PARTNERS MAPPED DURING THE INCEPTION PERIOD

Partner	Scope of partnership	Expected result
Regional		
Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct scoping study in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam to identify CSOs working on climate change, DRR, gender and/or human rights, and assess their capacity needs Develop training manual and conduct training for the selected CSOs Organise national and regional consultations to facilitate dialogue between CSOs and national stakeholders in order to ensure gender aspects in the relevant climate change and DRR policies and programmes 	Increased capacity of national and local CSOs on gender equality, climate change and DRR. Improved leadership and engagement of national women-led and human rights CSOs in decision-making processes running at regional and country levels.
ASEAN Centre for Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate dialogue to better integrate gender in ASEAN Centre for Energy's regional renewable energy policies and frameworks; Identify and develop guidelines, reports, case studies and other knowledge products on gender and renewable energy, targeting the practitioners, policy makers and the financial and business sector at national level in Cambodia and Viet Nam and at regional level in ASEAN; Facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity development on gender inclusive renewable energy programmes. 	More gender inclusive and efficient solutions in implementing renewable energy technologies more broadly in the ASEAN countries.
ASEAN Secretariat	Developing the regional knowledge product "Bridging the energy access gap in Asia through women led enterprises"	Increased awareness and capacity on gender equality and women's leadership in renewable energy, policy recommendations in EmPower countries and Asia Pacific
Bangladesh		
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)	<p>Capacity need assessment of women-led organizations selected for capacity-building trainings. Organisation of five capacity-building trainings on gender, climate change adaptation, DRR and organizational framework. Preparation of training module in English and Bangla.</p> <p>Organization of local level consultation and national level dialogue in participation with multi-stakeholders to hear the voice of grassroots community specially women led CBOs to the policy makers on gender equality, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.</p>	Enhanced knowledge, skills, and leadership of women led CSOs on organizational development, gender equality, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. A strong network and linkage are in place between the policy makers, service providers, and the grassroots community people specially marginalized women from vulnerable communities.
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)	Collection of Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) on climate change and DRR; designing a sample census survey; national consultations on gender statistics; national methodological guidelines on gender statistics for CC/DRR policies.	An established mechanism and tool is in place to collect SADDD during any sort of data collection process by the government agencies both at district and national level.

Partner	Scope of partnership	Expected result
Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)	Coordination at sub-national and national level, conducting studies to plan and implement output 4, setting up financing models for women's entrepreneurs and ensuring access to RE technology	Long-term implementation partner for output 3 and 4, providing support in delivering they key output results, co- financing and ensures sustainability of interventions.
Cambodia		
Nexus for Development	Technical expertise on RE provided on scoping and pre-feasibility in the selected provinces under output 4. Gathered key inputs from provincial and national stakeholders.	Long-term implementation partner for output 4, contributed to meeting the targets in 2019 and will continue supporting the project with technical capacity on RE in 2020.
The National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development (NCDD)	Coordination at sub-national and national level, providing support to the studies to plan and implement output 4, setting up financing models for women's entrepreneurs, as well as provincial action plans and providing support on monitoring results.	Long-term implementation partner for output 3 and 4, providing support in delivering they key output results, co- financing and ensures sustainability of interventions.
BBC Media Action	Conducting participatory action research to understand the root causes of gender-based vulnerabilities to climate hazards in two provinces in coastal, flood prone or drought zones in Cambodia under output 1 and support to output 2 of increasing evidence and data availability.	Implementation partner for output 1 for build the evidence base on the root causes of gender-based vulnerabilities and capabilities and can be used to advocate for more gender responsive or gender transformative programmes and planning.
Action Aid International Cambodia	International NGO with technical expert in gender, women's empowerment, CC and DRR working to strengthen capacity and leadership of women leaders and grassroots women at sub-national level and to support creating space for CSOs and grassroots women to advocate for climate change and DRR policies inclusive of gender and human rights issues; and to produce women's resilience index to inform DRR and climate change policies and programs in Cambodia.	Implementation partner for output 1 & 2 for increased women's capacity and leadership to influence and mainstream gender equality in climate change and DRR policies and processes at national and sub-national levels and improved evidence base on national capacity for disaster risk reduction and recovery and the extent to which the needs of women are being integrated into national resilience-building efforts.
BBC Media Action	Conducting participatory action research to understand the root causes of gender based vulnerabilities to climate hazards in two provinces in coastal, flood prone or drought zones in Cambodia under output 1 and support to output 2 of increasing evidence and data availability.	Implementation partner for output 1 for build the evidence base on the root causes of gender-based vulnerabilities and capabilities and can be used to advocate for more gender responsive or gender transformative programmes and planning.

Partner	Scope of partnership	Expected result
Viet Nam		
Center for Environment and Community Research (CERC)	Technical expertise and coordination on strengthening capacity of women led CSO on gender and climate change issues and advocacy on gender equality and women leadership on climate change policy making process.	Long-term responsible party for Output 1
CHIASE	Technical expertise on RE provided on scoping and pre-feasibility in the selected provinces under output 4. Gathered key inputs from provincial and national stakeholders	Long-term implementation partner for output 4, contributed to meeting the targets in 2019 and will continue supporting the project with technical capacity on RE in 2020.
Green Innovation and Development Centre (GreenID)	Technical expertise on RE provided on scoping and pre-feasibility in the selected provinces under output 4. Gathered key inputs from provincial and national stakeholders.	Long-term implementation partner for output 4, contributed to meeting the targets in 2019 and will continue supporting the project with technical capacity on RE in 2020.
Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE)	Conducting the “State of Gender Equality and Climate Change” Assessment Report, including facilitation of national level consultations and peer-review.	Contribution to the process of review and implementation of the NDCs under the Paris Agreement by strengthening the NDC preparation and implementation processes through inclusion of gender equality
Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority	Collaboration on promoting the collection and use of SADD data in disaster risk management and capacity building on gender mainstreaming in DRR policy making process	Long term responsible party for Output 2 and Output 3
Viet Nam Women’s Union	Collaboration on promote women’s leadership in DRR and gender responsive DRR policies	Long term responsible party for Output 1 and Output 3

ANNEX 2.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR 2019-2022

OUTCOME: COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IMPLEMENT GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRR ACTIONS TO ADDRESS KEY-DRIVERS ¹ OF GENDER-BASED VULNERABILITIES			
OUTCOME INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGETS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
# of gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions and policies implemented through the project support	0	10 policies implemented, or documents adopted at the national or regional level	National policies or their revisions, adopted national or regional documents, policies or strategies
# of countries that benefit from knowledge and evidence generated from the project to enhance gender-responsive climate resilience and DRR in Asia and the Pacific	0	At least 10 countries	Consultation reports, key informant interviews, requests for assistance
# of women in the communities who report using RE and face indirect economic benefits ² through the project support ³	0	800 women	Surveys on livelihood generation, focus group discussions, enterprise progress reports, interviews and participant observation, census data
# of women in the communities who report using RE and face direct economic benefits through the project support	0	300 women	Surveys on livelihood generation, focus group discussions, enterprise progress reports, interviews and participant observation, census data
# of climate resilient interventions implemented ⁴	0	5	Interventions ⁵ , Assessment Framework, baseline study, reports, surveys on communities' access to climate resilient interventions, focus group discussions, interviews and participant observation, census data

1. Drivers such as lack of gender-responsive policies; lack of capacity of policy makers and CSOs representing women, women themselves and women leaders; lack of SADD; lack of access to financial resources; lack of alternative livelihoods for women.
2. Definition of economic benefits – benefits associated with livelihoods. Inclusions to the indicator are: increase in income, increase in savings.
3. This outcome indicator has been split into 2 standalone indicators and a new line has been added for each indicator.
4. Definition of climate resilient interventions - interventions providing support on health, education, access to water and food
5. Interventions can be for example, solar based drinking water for coastal areas, smart solar water pumping and distribution system based on climatic condition, solar based health monitoring and supporting van etc.

OUTPUT 1. CSOS REPRESENTING WOMEN AND WOMEN'S GROUPS ARE ABLE TO LEAD, PARTICIPATE IN AND INFLUENCE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRR DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

OUTPUT INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGETS				CUM. TARGETS BY 2022	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022			
Bangladesh								
B.1.1. # of consultations between NGOs and government institutions working on climate change, DRR and gender equality. (MOWCA, MDRM, MoE and other sectoral ministries, where applicable)	0	1	2	2	2	7	Progress reports, consultation/ event reports	UN Women Bangladesh CO
B.1.2. # of CSOs representing women with increased capacity to engage with and lead the governmental and regional bodies on gender in climate change and DRR policy dialogues and workshops.	0	2	4	5	6	17	Progress reports, Consultation/ Event Reports	UN Women Bangladesh CO
Cambodia								
C.1.1. # of CSO representatives able to lead and engage with the government and regional bodies on gender in climate change and DRR policy dialogue ⁶ .	1	0	0	9	0	19	Consultation reports, number of government/ CSO engagements	UN Women Cambodia CO
C.1.2. # of consultations between key government ministries/committees working on climate change/DRR and women-established CSOs, gender advocates and LGBTIQ.	0	1	1	1	1	4	Progress reports, consultation reports	UN Women Cambodia CO
Viet Nam								
V.1.1. # of local women-led organizations and networks with increased understanding of gender-responsive climate change/DRR issues due to project intervention.	1	3	1	1	1	7	Reports, meeting minutes	UN Women Vietnam CO
V.1.2. # of meetings, workshops and policy dialogues on climate change and DRR, where local women-led organizations and networks are engaging in dialogue with the government.	1	1	1	1	1	5	Reports on policy dialogues, annual reports of organizations and networks	UN Women Vietnam CO
V.1.3. # of briefs/advocacy materials concerning gender and marginalized groups in the context of climate change and DRR produced by women-led local's organizations and networks.	0	0	1	1	0	2	Policy briefs, reports available on media	UN Women Vietnam CO

6. Percentage values for this indicator have been replaced by absolute values, which makes monitoring of the progress easier.

ANNEX 3

ANNEX 7- KIIS AND FGDS – LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED

No.	Organization/ Entity Name	Female	Male	Methodology
1.	Stockholm Environment Institute	1		Interview
2.	ASEAN Secretariat	1		Interview
3.	ARROW	1		Interview
4.	UNESCAP	1		Interview
5.	ICIMOD	1		Interview
6.	UNDP	1		Interview
7.	UNEP ROAP (PMU)	1		Group Discussion
8.		1		
9.		1		
10.			1	
11.	UNEP ROAP (Admin)		1	Group Discussion
12.		1		
13.	UN Women (PMU)	1		Group Discussion
14.		1		
15.		1		
16.		1		
17.	UN Women Country Office - Bangladesh	1		Group Discussion
18.	UN Women Country Office - Bangladesh	1		
19.	UN Women Country Office - Cambodia	1		
20.	UN Women Country Office - Vietnam	1		
21.	FAO Bangladesh		1	Group Discussion
22.	UNEP ROAP	1		
23.	UNRC Office- Vietnam		1	
24.	UNFPA - Cambodia		1	
25.	UN Women Count			Interview
26.	ASEAN Centre for Energy	1		Interview
27.	NCCDS (Cambodia)		1	Interview
28.	UNDP Cambodia		1	Interview
29.	SIDA	1		Interview
30.	SIDA	1		Interview
31.	Program Analysts - UN Women ROAP	1		Group Discussion
32.		1		
33.	Communication Analysts- UN Women ROAP	1		Group Discussion
34.		1		

No.	Organization/ Entity Name	Female	Male	Methodology
Cambodia				
Phnom Penh				
35.	Private Sector	1		Interview
36.	NEXUS International NGO		1	Interview
37.	ECOSUN Private sector		1	Interview
38.	SHE Enterprise	1		Interview
39.	MOE	1		Interview
40.	Advisor to MOWA	1		Interview
41.	ActionAid		1	Interview
42.	NCDM, Deputy Secretary General	1		Interview
43.	UN Women	1		Interview
44.	ARDB, Head of Project	1		Interview
45.	ARDB, Deputy Head	1		Interview
Sre Ambel District, Koh Kong Province				
46.	Commune Councillor		1	Interview
47.	Commune women and children council committee	1		Group Discussion
48.	District Women Champion Network	1		Interview
49.	Mlup Prum Vihear Thor Center (Local NGO)		1	Group Discussion
50.	Mlup Prum Vihear Thor Center (Local NGO)		1	Group Discussion
51.	Women Champion Network	1		Group Discussion
Pursat				
52.	Pursat Provincial Admin		1	Group Discussion
53.	Commune Council of Sresdock Commune, Kandieng District, Battambang Province		1	Group Discussion
54.	Commune Clerk		1	Group Discussion
55.	Social Clean Water Enterprise Popi	1		Group Discussion
56.	Social Clean Water Enterprise Popi	1		
57.	Social Clean Water Enterprise Popi		1	
Viet Nam				
58.	Science Technology and International Cooperation Division (under Department of Climate Change, MONRE)	1		Interview
59.	Disaster Management Policy and Technology Center (under Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, MARD)		1	Interview
60.	Technology and International Cooperation Department (under Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, MARD)		1	Interview
61.	Institute of Strategic Policy on Natural Resource and Environment (under MONRE)		1	Interview
62.	Viet Nam Women's Academy (under Viet Nam Women Union)	1		Interview
63.	Viet Nam Women Union of Bac Kan Province	1		Interview

No.	Organization/ Entity Name	Female	Male	Methodology
64.	Viet Nam Women Union of Can Loc district (in Ha Tinh province)	1		Interview
65.	Farmer Association of Can Loc district (in Ha Tinh province)		1	Interview
66.	People's Committee of Kim Xuan Truong cooperative (Can Loc district, Ha Tinh province)		1	Interview
67.	GIZ	1		Interview
68.	The Network of women led CSOs on Climate Change in Viet Nam	1		Interview
69.	Center for Eco-community Development	1		Interview
70.	Center of Help for Indigenous value promotion and Sustainable Environment		1	Interview
71.	Center for Rural Resources Development Research	1		Interview
72.	Hong Luan Cooperative (Renewable energy in Bac Kan Province)	3		Group Discussion
73.	Nghia Ta Cooperative (Renewable energy in Bac Kan Province)	3		Group Discussion
74.	Local People in Kim Xuan Truong Commune (Model of Microbial fertilizer production in Ha Tinh Province)	4	4	Group Discussion
Total = 83		56	27	

ANNEX 4 - CAMBODIA CASE STUDY

* In-depth version of case study report with annexes is also available

1. Current Country Context

Cambodia is the 15th most vulnerable country out of 181 on the Risk Index for 2021¹. Climate change-induced disasters such as floods, storms, tropical cyclones, sea level rise, droughts, tropical cyclones, and other disasters such as fires, pandemics, lightning strikes, and landslides (in the northern mountainous regions) occur in Cambodia². El Nino droughts of 2015–2019 negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of 2.5 million people in Cambodia.³ Economically, Cambodia is among the least developed countries (LDCs) and among the top five countries in Asia-Pacific, which are at the greatest increase in disaster risk between 2020 and 2040⁴, which can jeopardize the development gains made during the last decades. Cambodia's population depends on climate-sensitive livelihood sectors, such as agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. 80 per cent of food in Cambodia is produced by women responsible for food production and food security within and beyond the family. Shortage of natural resources such as food, water, and fuel due to climate change increases women's and girls' workload, leaving them no time to pursue economic activities and education, consequently increasing inequalities. According to Cambodia's Second NDC (2015) to the UNFCCC, lives, livelihoods, economic development, and natural resources are severely damaged by a lack of disaster preparedness and coping mechanisms. Projected climate change trends point to increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and more catastrophic floods in Cambodia. Climate change and disasters in the agricultural and allied sectors significantly affect women's ability to generate income and secure food and nutrition for themselves and their families. Further, climate change significantly influences crop production and

people's health, especially children and pregnant mothers. These vulnerabilities are compounded by socio-economic factors such as access to resources and assets, inequality, power, gender inequality, and ethnicity, among others.

2. Key Findings

Relevance: EmPower is highly relevant to the context mentioned above in Cambodia. EmPower is well aligned with and has contributed to realizing the national policies, plans, and Agenda 2030 commitments on DRR and CC. As per respondents, EmPower at the national level has supported the development and implementation of several national strategies and reports, including but not limited to the first Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014–202), Disaster Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2019–2030), National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2019–2023), Standard Operating Procedures for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Cambodia, and Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in Sre Ambel. In terms of the provisions for targeted actions, the specific needs of women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly have been identified and used to influence risk reduction policy and strategy at all levels in line with the National Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In 2020, the government amended its NDC under the UNFCCC, which includes gender and social inclusion components. EmPower contributed to the implementation of Neary Rattanak V 2019–2023 Strategic Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which focuses on the strategic frame on crosscutting issues: women's public decision-making and politics and gender-responsive government policies and reform programs.

1. <https://www.peopleinneed.net/cambodias-early-warning-system-1294-8693gp>
2. ADPC & UNDRR (2019) Disaster Risk Reduction in Cambodia, Status Report (July 2019): <https://reliefweb.int/report/cambodia/disaster-risk-reduction-cambodia-status-report-july-2019#:~:text=Hazards%20in%20Cambodia%20include%20almost,to%20disaster%20risks%20as%20well>
3. UNESCAP (2020) Ready for Dry Years: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/Ready%20for%20the%20Dry%20Years.pdf>
4. UNESCAP (2021) Resilience in a Riskier World: Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Asia-Pacific%20Disaster%20Report%202021-Full%20report.pdf>

Coherence: The UN Women and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) teamed up to offer unique knowledge and experience. UN Women and UNEP have begun working with ministries of Women’s Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Interior (NCDD), and the Ministry of Environment (MoE), through the steering committee, which serves as a coordination body. MOE, MOWA, NCDD, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) make up the steering committee. The steering committee’s primary responsibilities on the government’s side are to update the NDC and report to UNFCCC, support gender-related linkages to climate change, and develop capacity in collaboration with MEFF on the gender budget. There is less engagement of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) is not much in this steering committee. The committee meets biannually to assess the progress of the project. Work on the environment and gender issues between the UN and government partners have improved, with each agency controlling its sector. UN Women focused on gender, DRR, climate change, and UNEP on renewable energy.

According to the respondents, the project had a long inception period. The project strongly focused on DRR, but NCDM was left out of the project throughout the planning stage. Some CC, DRR, and GE operations were connected to agriculture and were pertinent. These activities weren’t primarily engaged directly with this sector. The project established the project steering committee, stakeholder coordination, and a clear understanding of roles and duties are limited. EmPower should create a guideline for organizing relevant agencies with agreement and terms of engagement to join the project throughout the project’s design and implementation phases. The EmPower phase 2 will benefit from joint planning, implementation, and monitoring systems at the national and community levels. In this regard, having a single voice for the stakeholders and beneficiaries will be essential.

Effectiveness: EmPower completed most outputs and exceeded some.

Output 1: Encourage women’s participation in climate decisions.

The project drew on NGO networks and human resources (e.g., ActionAid, NEXUS, MPC, Sre Khmer, etc.). Women’s groups such as the Women Champion Network, women and children commune councils,

CSOs, and CBO were actively engaged in the project. In Koh Kong Province, EmPower engaged and encouraged women to participate in climate decision-making. It organized capacity-building activities (e.g., WCN received training and participated in the commune council meeting), GE, CC, and DRR awareness events (raising their voices in the meeting related to disaster support, commune sewage rehabilitation, etc.). Women were involved in climate data collection, analysis, and developing preparedness plans. In Pursat, women have been working on green and renewable energy and GE, CC & DRR awareness. The project supported increasing women’s access to productive resources such as solar energy and generating MFI connections (e.g., ARDB) to help them develop a credit history, produce income and job prospects, and reduce carbon emissions. EmPower’s solar energy intervention empowered women and smallholders to gain equal access to productive resources, increasing their additional household income by 20 to 30% and benefiting thousands of people. UN Women supported the leadership and capacity development of Women’s groups (women champions and communal women and children councils), and civil society organizations (CSOs) led by women are involved in local and national decision-making processes. These organizations can operate independently with little support from NGOs and UN agencies. Inter-ministerial functions, such as MOWA and MOE, NCDM and NCDD, and their gender focal points, were held regularly, demonstrating this effect.

Output 2: Capacities for collection, analysis, and use of SADD

According to the interviews, the use of SADD in Cambodia is limited besides collecting sex information from workshop attendees and community events. The respondents interviewed shared a consensus that information shortages on gender and age limited the efficiency of emergency responses in all stages of disasters. Thus, many woman field agents required training as they did not understand the need for

SADD or how to collect, analyze, and translate it into policy. There was no standardized way to collect, manage, and analyze data and use it to inform policy. EmPower provided technical support to publish the national gender indicators. MoWA has organized dialogues and is in the process of finalizing and adopting them.

Output 3; Transform CC & DRR national policies to gender-responsive

The national government is utilizing capacity development training, new information, and new learning to formulate and implement policies on women and energy, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. The most appropriate groups in target provinces were identified based on their interest in and potential to benefit from CSO-provided community-based gender and climate change training. ECO SUN, SOG, and SHE are some private sector organizations selected to help with renewable energy support and capacity building. At the sub-national levels, the transformation of policies into gender-responsive CC and DRR actions are observed. E.g., the responses from the communal councils indicate that the GE, CC, & have been included in the commune investment plans for the activities implemented in their communes. Respondents identified drought as the most severe climate threat, posing a high danger of water scarcity required for agriculture and household usage.

EmPower's current contribution to government policy transformation and linking GE to CC and DRR includes measures to incorporate gender concerns into climate change adaptation programs by aligning national gender and climate change policy frameworks with international commitments. Using the outcomes of EmPower, the MoWA's Gender and Climate Change Committee (GCCC) prepared a guidance handbook for policymakers and practitioners to mainstream gender into CCA investment programs, with funding from the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR). The project has also provided technical support to the Ministry of Mine and Energy, illustrating substantial gender responsiveness in the climate change action within the gender mainstreaming strategic plan in the mine, energy, and oil sector. The project further supports gender integration into national policy, which enabled the integration of gender into Cambodia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and supported the National Committee of Disaster Management (NCDM) in developing the guideline of gender mainstreaming into inclusive disaster management. At the commune, district, and provincial levels, local governments' ability to incorporate gender responses to climate change and DRR into their investment and development plans has been reported by the respondents from the commune

council members. With some financing from the government's annual budget, CSOs provided technical assistance in the areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as gender-responsive budgeting.

Output 4. Enable women to access and use renewable energy

The project activities included gender-inclusive energy policy development, greener technology development, energy efficiency, and renewable energy development, particularly solar energy. EmPower has helped women's enterprises (kindly see the box one on RE pilot) and agricultural irrigation by providing low-cost energy sources such as solar electricity. The sub-national government (provinces, districts, and communes) appreciated the knowledge and capacity development provided by the project and have integrated the RE activities into their investment and development plans. Significantly, in sub-national planning and budgeting, the government has adopted and committed (commune councils and districts) to gender mainstreaming in three-year (CIP) and five-year (CDP) gender mainstreaming plans. Training in GE, CC, DRR, and gender mainstreaming at the national level, such as workshops conducted and planning skills learned, have increased focal points' capacity and related stakeholders' capacity.

The project should have more monitoring and evaluation framework indicators for GE in CC and DRR action and finance. There were no gender indicators to illustrate how many women and men were included or promoted, access to power for male or female-headed households, or the diverse uses of energy for living and income generation.

Organizational efficiency

The project design of the EmPower was a unique partnership and institutional arrangement between two UN agencies with substantial experience and expertise in environment, DRR, CC, and gender. UN

Women is a leader in gender quality and crosscutting areas, including DRR, whereas UNEP is an expert on environment, CC, and RE, according to government stakeholders and communities. On the other hand, these two significant agencies appear to be acting independently. Above all, the contributions of GE, CC, and DRR and their linkages to livelihoods and household economic improvement could have been

more coherent and with a holistic approach. Due to a lack of coordination of project activities, the implementation of a unified capacity-building or awareness package is not well integrated between GE and CC & DRR.

Similarly, the NGOs that received funding from the two UN agencies (NEXUS and ActionAid) worked independently and without clear coordination among the two. EmPower phase two must develop collaborative coordination and joint monitoring mechanism involving partners and stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities. The EmPower's design was flexible enough to respond and adapt to disasters and COVID-19 circumstances. During the crisis, some budgets were redirected to help disaster victims, such as in Sre Ambel, where wind storm damage to impoverished households was addressed. COVID-19 funding was used to purchase medical items such as masks, gel, and alcohol for hand washing, disinfection, and community awareness banners. According to the respondents in the province of Koh Kong, the training and project awareness have helped the local beneficiaries understand the disaster preparedness measures in the context of climate change.

Sustainability

EmPower project contributed to the direct and indirect implementation of the government's strategies, from local to national strategic implementation and future development plans. By recognizing women as change agents for climate change and DRR and the most vulnerable and affected people as the first responders to disasters, the project's mainstreaming of gender equality has supported and contributed to the government's learning and development process of including GE in CC & DRR for a more sustainable and equal future. Gender equality in climate change and DRR are included in commune council investment plans, which will be submitted to several connected sectors for future financing and support. According to observations made during the field mission, the provincial, district, and commune governments have included the GE, CC, and DRR in their development plans. According to the respondents, government partners, NGOs (NEXUS, ActionAid, MPC, and others), and linked business sector companies (Eco Sun SUG, and SHE) are all invested in the project and reported as being in part responsible for its success or failure,

displaying ownership. A few project activities related to GE awareness for CC and DRR will be co-financed:

1. In communes in the Sre Ambel district, EmPower and MPC collaborated on a three-year rolling plan (CIP) and a commune five-year development plan.
2. Through RE intervention of women-owned renewable energy firms, co-financing renewable energy (solar power) for Drinking Water enterprises.

Human Rights and Gender Equality.

The poor and vulnerable women were targeted using ID Poor 1 & 2 as a targeting tool local partners of the MPC supported by ActionAid and volunteer-based Women Champions reached out to remote beneficiaries. According to MPC, women have become more courageous and want to be a part of the effort and participate in decision-making and express their views.

ActionAid Cambodia engaged MPC and NEXUS to implement the planned activities in the Sre Ambel district). The project developed the capacity of women groups and women champions to develop a 3-year rolling Commune Investment Plan and Commune 5-year Development Plan (CIP/CDP). It increased women's voices and collective actions to address community DRR and CCA challenges.

Women in communities were identified and trained as Women Champions members, including in action planning. They were provided ongoing mentoring support and established online communities of practice to implement their action plans and other relevant activities, such as rallying community support. The training assisted in the knowledge and participation in commune development plans and rolling commune investment plans, as well as the enhancement of women's roles in decision-making processes following UN Women principles. According to the respondents, the percentage of people who said they knew something (on GE, CC, & DRR) increased from 50% to 90%. According to the respondents, traditional gender roles of domestic work and family support make engaging with women difficult and require a lot of help. Despite this, it becomes evident that strategies like the ones used by ActionAid through MPC were highly beneficial. Women began to recognize the concerns and effectively solve them by directly targeting women, particularly at the village

level, and teaching them in areas that can change the underlying challenges of gender (e.g., participation in local decision-making processes). MPC also ensured local governments actively participated in activities, which decreased friction and increased buy-in from all parties concerned. This method can readily be replicated for different initiatives, and comparable

ideas were also seen in NEXUS's work on climate change and disaster relief supporting renewable energy (e.g., solar power). The sustainability of these women's initiatives can be maintained by guaranteeing continual communication (using social media, for example).

POPI ASSOCIATION'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR DRINKING WATER IN PURSAT PROVINCE

Poverty in Cambodia's rural areas is a significant concern. The research for evaluation shows that women in the region possess inadequate livelihood capital, particularly human and financial capacity. Rural development programs are still not widely accessible and do not provide sufficient inputs for renewable energy support. EmPower focused on livelihood support through renewable energy and linking to the CC & DRR, which helped to connect actors that determine how rural poor work on social enterprises. With the help of a local NGO called Sre Khmer, the Popi Association's Social Enterprise for Drinking Water was established in 2019. The NGO assisted with training in production, financial management, market development, and market linkages for pure drinking water using solar energy. Each of the 14 members paid 120,000 Riel (\$30) for the construction of a storage facility, materials, equipment, and the production plan, with the rest coming from the Enterprise (\$3500 from an ARDB loan) and EmPower contributing around \$6,000. The KIIs and FGDs indicate that the members of the enterprise supplement their agricultural and off-farm incomes (small traders at local markets or selling groceries/fish in villages), primarily as wage laborers and workers, by producing and retailing pure drinking water. Women's empowerment in governance and technical roles and the value of women's participation contributed to the business development of women-owned enterprises in the renewable energy industry and civil democracy.

The livelihood activities need to focus more on power relationships, particularly gender equality linked to CC & DRR issues. The findings presented here uncover the deep interlinkages between livelihood capitals and the impact of the broader socio-economic contexts on household livelihood activities and outcomes. Some changes in gender roles are apparent. Women are responsible for bringing the product to market, while men are now in charge of pumping water. Women maintain and clean the apparatus. Women manage the association's operations and finances. The voices of women have been heard and valued.

It is still too early to evaluate the facility's profitability as it has only been operational for six months. However, it has helped the business connect with a microfinance in

5. Conclusions

As crosscutting issues, leave no one behind, and gender equality is high on the agenda, especially in climate change and disaster risk reduction. EmPower has been designed to meet the national government and local community's priorities and needs. The evaluation findings indicate that EmPower contributed directly and indirectly to the CEDAW, national climate change, and DRR strategies both directly and indirectly. More crucially, it helped to understand GE in relation to CC and DRR. However, the coordination and communication between the project actors and components need to be further enhanced.

The community members were unaware of the joint work of UNEP and UN Women. UN Women and UNEP have comparative advantages in their partnership, knowledge, and expertise in their respective fields. However, there appears to be a gap in coherent activity implementation at the national and community levels. The coordination and communication for joint gender-responsive CC-DRR-RE initiatives still require clear roles, mechanisms, and frameworks for EmPower's outcomes to be mainstreamed into national and local government policies and strategies.

A lot of progress has been made within the project for gender empowerment. E.g., the Women Champions at the local levels has far-reaching effects that will influence other sectors such as women's participation in leadership, CC, DRR and, agricultural practices et al. Individual project results will help to improve gender equality in other projects, some of the lessons learned from drinking water enterprise project will be used in future projects as well as mainstreaming into local commune investment plans. Gender empowerment at the national level and support for women interested in training in weather forecasting, recording, and data gathering should be prioritized in the future. It is evident that in the future, programs should go beyond simply gathering disaggregated data on how many men and women attended a training event and investigate why and how this affects women and men. As a result, we will be able to tell stories that highlight the humanity of the women involved in our projects.

6.1. Lessons learned

- EmPower's success was partly due to the inclusion of local level government in project implementation. Further buy-in increased by involving ministries, provincial and district councils, local commune councils, and women's networks. The commune councils have included the activities in their investment plans. Some project outcomes have contributed to national policies and strategies, such as Cambodia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, the NDC Roadmap, stakeholder engagement plans, etc. The project's results have also helped meet the demands of the local target communities as well as the needs of the national and subnational governments.
- The project should recognize the difficulties women face in disaster preparedness and response as an essential element of the resilience of their livelihoods.
- The project could further enhance women's participation by ensuring the location and schedule of activities. Hosting training close to home and taking women's available schedules into account, the experiences learned from MPC/ActionAid, NCCDD, and other organizations will make it easier for local women to participate in training.
- Training community-level women directly allowed them to engage at these various levels. Consider integrating women at all levels, focusing on meaningfully including women's decision-making processes. It indicates considering individual feedback, making changes at the project level, and resuming action. Part of the success of this project was bottom-up, and top-down empowerment approaches (even if limited at the national level).
- Establish a communication method that is not solely dependent on the project. For example, the active online communication networks of the DCA and AAC activities will increase the likelihood of sustainability of activities beyond the project's life.
- EmPower's awareness and communications allowed women's voices and stories to be heard and highlighted in male-dominated fields such as meteorology and hydrology. It is expected that dialogue around gender involvement in these fields can shift. Listen for stories that might challenge traditional gender perspectives and report this critical qualitative data.

- Based on disaggregating data, ensure that gender is included in all the indicators across the log frames.
- EmPower Phase 2 should translate the coherent national gender, CC, DRR, and RE plans and strategies into the grassroots level implementation pilots and activities. This may be done by ensuring that gender specialists or advocates are present and actively involved in consultation workshops and processes and identifying gender inclusion and mainstreaming in CC-DRR-RE. It should be ensured that any consultants responsible for developing national strategies have training in gender mainstreaming.
- The project should develop a joint and coherent plan, strategy, M&E framework, and staff monitoring tools and mechanisms. The EmPower results need more integration work and ensure that all significant government institutions are aware of them, can modify their approaches, and contribute to government development policies.
- A letter of agreement is required for the involvement of project institution implementers and stakeholders to deliver agreed-upon works and for the institution to prepare more effectively. By doing this, the outcomes can also be incorporated into practices already in place, and the stakeholders can assist in developing and implementing policies. Project activities must be made known to all participants to ensure they know the linkage between GE, CC, DRR, & RE. To ensure that the deliveries are made effectively, the UN Women and UNEP may need to engage directly with local partners and beneficiaries. Additionally, this will offer the beneficiaries and local partners the technical assistance they require.

6.2. Way forward

- The fundamental purpose of EmPower was to develop the preparedness and resilience of women and girls in the context of CC and disasters. Comprehensive climate and disaster risk management (risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery) should be mainstreamed into the subnational level for execution with community engagement.
- The exit strategy must provide better guidelines for results adoption and mainstream into the development of government practices and policies. A defined exit strategy direction and guidance are essential for the sustainability of the introduced approach and results

ANNEX 5 –VIETNAM CASE STUDY

- In-depth version of case study report with annexes is also available

1. Introduction

Global Climate Risk Index 2020 ranked Viet Nam as the sixth most heavily impacted by extreme weather phenomena in the past decade. Between 1999 - 2018, Viet Nam recorded 226 extreme weather events, which killed an average of 285.8 people and caused economic losses of more than USD 2 billion per year. Viet Nam is highly exposed to violent climatic events such as droughts, floods, and typhoons. The latest World Bank report indicates high costs of climate change in Viet Nam. Viet Nam is the third largest exporter of rice in the world, and around 40% of the population of Viet Nam works in the agriculture sector (in 2019). Women in Viet Nam are more vulnerable to climate change because of their higher dependency on natural resources for income generation, their concentration in the informal sector, household responsibilities that may prevent them from joining community gatherings, low ownership of land titles, negative coping strategies such as migration, their limited decision-making capacity within the household and community, and most extension services target the head of households whose role is traditionally fulfilled by men. They are underrepresented in leadership positions at district and commune levels.¹

Gender equality is essential in national disaster risk management policies. However, gender issues are not much considered in ministerial-level policies, livelihoods, and economic recovery planning. Since Viet Nam is one of the developing countries worst affected by natural disasters, there are still many challenges for women and gender equality. In 2020, due to the policy advocacy of UN Women under EmPower project and other organizations, the government issued some policies recognizing the linkage between gender equality and climate change adaptation.

2. Methodology

This case study is based on desk review, Key Informant Interviews, and FGDs with stakeholders and beneficiaries of Empower Project in Viet Nam. There were 14 KIIs conducted with eight women and six men from the Government, CSOs, NGOs, and private enterprises who are stakeholders of Empower Project in Viet Nam. Three FDGs were conducted with community beneficiaries (4 men and 10 women), including members of women-led enterprises and local communities in Bac Kan and Ha Tinh provinces.

TABLE 1: Summary of national partners of Empower project in Viet Nam

Partners of UN Women	Partners of UNEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA)• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)• Disaster Management Technology and Policy Centre - VNDMA• Viet Women Union• Viet Nam Women's Academy• Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)• Viet Nam NGO network on gender and CC (led by CERC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (under MONRE)• Viet Women's Union• NGOs/CSOs (CHIASE, GreenID)

¹ UNDP, 2019, Opportunities to empower women with enhanced access to climate information service for transformative adaptation actions in Viet Nam's agricultural sectors, accessed on 27 July 2022 at <https://www.undp.org/vietnam/publications/opportunities-empower-women-enhanced-access-climate-information-services-transformative-adaptation-actions-viet-nam%E2%80%99s>

3. Findings

Results of Output 1: The links between CSOs and governmental organizations were strengthened, and the CSOs had a chance to raise their voices and contribute to policy advocacy on gender, CC, and DRR. The links between CSOs and governmental organizations were strengthened, and the CSOs had more chances to raise their voice and contribute to policy advocacy on gender, CC, and DRR, including high-level events at COP 25 and COP 26. The connection between CSOs with policy-making bodies enhanced, and the voice of CSOs in the field of Gender, CC, and DRR has become more respected. A scoping study on mapping and CSO capacity need an assessment of national and local CSOs working on CC,

DRR, gender equality, and human rights in Viet Nam to equip them with skills and practical capacity to strengthen women's community-based resilience and CCA. Educational institutions such as Viet Nam Women's Academy developed curricula and textbooks on gender integration into climate change and gender and environment. Empower project provided TOT training on gender mainstreaming in climate change resilience for 33 mid- level to senior project management professionals from 11 CSOs on gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, and advocacy for gender in forest management in the climate change context. Three trainings on Gender Analysis and Advocacy in Disaster Risk Management for officials of Viet Nam Women's Union at central and provincial levels were held, attracting 90 core staff Viet Nam Women's Unions in all provinces in Viet Nam. The training provided participants with knowledge of gender, environment, and skills to develop their organizations. The initiatives also contributed to developing activist groups of communities to implement activities to protect the environment and promote gender equality and livelihoods. Women entrepreneurs received training in management

skills, environment protection, waste management, agriculture, and biofertilizer production. The project constantly coached CSOs during the development and finalization of their proposed action. At the end of the process, eight initiatives from 8 CSOs were selected to get funding of around 1,000 USD from the Empower project and the Blue Water Fund (USAID) to implement their initiatives. Following the training and mentoring by EmPower project, some CSOs took advantage of

local priorities to use local budgets for implementing initiatives (for example, mobilizing the budgets from the New Rural Program of locality). Apart from the fund of UN Women, the Center for Rural Resources Development Research mobilized financial resources (about 50 million VND) from the New Rural Program funds of the People's Committee of Can Loc district and the counterpart capital from the local households to implement the activities of the initiative (the total spending for this project was 180 million VND).

Results of Output 2: UN Women provided technical support to the Disaster Management Policy and Technology Center of VNDMA and the General Statistics Office to review the current national system for data collection, analysis, and management of gender and climate change and DRR. 250 disaster management officials at provincial, district, and commune levels in two provinces, Da Nang and Lao Cai, were trained on the collection of SADDD for baseline information on disaster risk. As a result, two gender and disaster data profiles for two provinces, Da Nang and Lao Cai, were completed, which included information collected from the commune level. An officer told the VNDMA that it was the first time SADDD for disaster baseline information was collected to provide key information on gender and disaster in a province. The SADDD has provided important evidence for other activities of VNDMA, e.g., development of DRR-CCA strategies, decisions and support allocation for disaster prevention, building communication activities, training, and conferences on gender and vulnerability integration, disaster prevention, etc.

Results of Output 3: Empower integrated gender dimensions in climate change and DRR policies and identified indicators and targets. It identified gender gaps, good practices, and challenges in gender mainstreaming in climate change. UN Women and GIZ organized a training workshop on gender in climate change - NDC development process, and good practices for the staff of gender machinery, including gender focal points from line ministries and staff of Viet Nam Women's Union at national and provincial levels. UN Women, in collaboration with GIZ, provided technical assistance to MONRE on gender mainstreaming in the updated National Strategy on Climate Change (2022-2030).

Due to participation in training and conferences, policy-making agencies (such as MORNE and MARD)

were equipped with knowledge on gender issues and gender integration. Their capacity was strengthened to integrate gender into policies on CC and DRR. Disaster Management Policy and Technology Center (under VNDMA) developed guidelines on gender mainstreaming in disaster prevention and carried gender mainstreaming into training content. VNDMA developed legislation for gender mainstreaming and disaster prevention data with gender, age, and vulnerability segregations. UNEP provided technical support to capacity building and Training of Trainers for women's rights organizations, gender machinery, and gender focal points in various key ministries on gender and NDC in Viet Nam. UNEP signed a contract with the Institute of Strategic Policy on Natural Resource and Environment (under MONRE) to conduct a national assessment of "State of Gender Equality and Climate Change," which presented evidence on the linkages between gender equality and climate change and unpacking the gendered impacts of climate change in the key CCA and mitigation sectors, such as agriculture, energy, water management, and forestry.

Results of Output 4: Due to UNEP's support, some CSOs worked with Women's Unions in localities and provincial governments to implement renewable energy interventions. UNEP worked with NGOs (such as CHIASE, and GreenID) in Viet Nam to provide women with support relating to RE in provinces. The provincial action plans to support women's entrepreneurship through RE were developed and approved in three provinces (Bac Kan, Lao Cai, and An Giang) and made accessible to provincial stakeholders. The baseline was conducted to collect data on women's livelihood enterprises/entrepreneurs interested in RE for economic benefits. Training and skill need assessment was performed.

Funding schemes were established through stakeholder consultations for the selected women-led enterprises working on RE and climate resilient livelihoods (through the provincial Women's Union in Bac Kan, Lao Cai, and An Giang provinces and the Central Viet Nam Women's Union). Training on business development, financial literacy, and RE technologies was organized for women from women-led enterprises or women entrepreneurs. The feasibility studies and business plan preparation were completed for some enterprises. Nine women

enterprises in Viet Nam accessed the funding support for RE. Leaders of some cooperatives have reported positive changes in how they managed the cooperatives, including more effective management and using online platforms for selling and business networking. RE supported equipping streetlights using solar energy for a village and provided lighting for women in isolated areas, which has helped them to do their work after dusk. Bac Kan province, where the Empower supported women-led enterprise, is a mountainous province frequently affected by heavy rain and floods. The solar energy glass drying houses provided by EmPower vis CHAISE to cooperatives are a considerable asset for these communities living in flood zones. Female leaders of cooperatives in these zones decided to invest in the drying houses using RE. The project provided technical assistance and 50% of funding.

In comparison, the cooperative was responsible for 50% of the cost (in which they paid for one-third and borrowed the rest from the fund of Empower project given to the Women's Union of the province). It is estimated that the cooperatives will get the full payback from the drying house in two years. The FGDs with members of the cooperatives reflected that these drying houses have helped to improve product quality, time, and economic efficiency. It has considerably reduced labor costs and increased revenues. During the rainy season, solar energy drying houses help communities to dry products. Cooperatives are planning to use the solar-energy glass drying house to widen production to dry other agricultural products of local people, such as medicinal herbs, bamboo shoots, and dry beans. Previously, the cooperative did not have the production capacity to fulfill these orders, but now it has the plan to purchase more bamboo shoots in the district to dry and sell them to distributors. Using RE will enable the Hong Luan cooperative to consume more bamboo shoots and produce more vermicelli. This will increase the demand for raw materials from the local people, such as fresh bamboo shoots and rice. Solar-energy glass drying house also contributes to increasing the income of local women laborers. During the last three months, the Hong Luan cooperative has created jobs for more than 2-3 ethnic minority women. The cooperatives have just used solar-energy glass drying houses for a few months, so it might not make considerable changes in gender relations. Women reported the growing respect and

support given to them by their husbands and families to invest in and operate solar energy drying houses. The interventions in implementing the initiatives and renewable energy have just been conducted for a short time, so it might not lead to significant changes in gender relations. However, men have been increasingly involved in environmental protection and women's economic empowerment.

6. Criteria for EmPower evaluation in Viet Nam

Relevance and Coherence

Domestic funding and capacity for the collection of SADDD were limited. Some interviewees from governmental organizations reported a shortage of studies and data on gender and climate change and gender-disaggregated statistics. There is no law/regulation for collecting gender-disaggregated data. Local governments are encouraged but not required to collect information about damages, livelihoods, and economic issues with attention to gender issues. To enhance sustainability, more focus should be given to local and community levels besides just communicating the project results achieved to the grassroots level.

Empower project has contributed to the implementation of international agreements that Viet Nam is committed to, such as SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and CEDAW. The collaboration between the two UN agencies helped to achieve the expected outcomes because it mobilized more resources for the project, including expert resources from the networks of the two UN agencies. The project applied output-based management. UN Women and UNEP were flexible in adjusting to adapt to new demands, particularly in the Covid-19 pandemic context, and encouraging initiatives. Interviewees highly appreciated the professionalism, enthusiasm, and support given to them by the staff of the two UN agencies. Although UNEP and UN Women are partners of the Empower project, they did not implement joint activities. Project components were managed by either UNEP or by UN Women. The activities organized by UN Women and UNEP seem to be entirely separate. They, therefore, do not know the details of each other's activities in the project. National partners of the project usually only worked with either UN Women or UNEP.

Hence, some did not even know that the two UN agencies conducted the project. The institutional setup is suggested to be more joint and coherent in approach in EmPower 2.

Some interviewees mentioned that EmPower phase 1 missed some key national stakeholders that should be included in EmPower phase 2. For example, MOLISA is a government line ministry assigned the official role of raising gender issues into law. The Ministry of Planning and Investment allocates public financial resources, and the Ministry of Finance plays a vital role in allocating the budget for implementing socio-economic development plans. The Empower project also missed targeting the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs as many poor people and vulnerable women are ethnic minority groups. The Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs is the main agency implementing the national target program, which comprises the component projects on economic development in response to climate change and gender equality in Vietnam.

Efficiency

The UN agencies and partners in Viet Nam closely monitored the quality of activities. UN Women and UNEP had regular meetings with their partners in Viet Nam and site visits to monitor activities. Periodical reports, including progress and financial reports, were sent to UN Women and UNEP by partners in Viet Nam. The resources management, reported by an interviewee, was reasonable because UN Women's administrative and accounting staff guided them through all procedures. The UN Women collaborators (such as VNDMA, Disaster Management Technology, Policy Center, Viet Nam Women's Union, VN Women's Academy, MONRE, and the VNGO network) sent their reports to UN Women. The UNEP collaborators (such as the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, under MONRE, Viet Nam Women's Union, NGO including CHIASE, GreenID) sent their reports to UNEP.

Nevertheless, partners' lack of staff resources sometimes impacted the Empower project. Officials of some governmental line ministries and institutions who implemented the Empower project's activities also held other jobs outside this project. This sometimes affected the progress of completing reports.

The Empower project's financial resources were not much but were used effectively. Partners optimized the allowable resources to achieve the goals. Some partners reported that funding was moderate, but the ambitions and output results were higher than expected (such as the funding for Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority to develop national system data with SADDD; financing of the Institute of Strategic Policy on Natural Resource and Environment to conduct a review study to assess the status of gender equality in climate change related policies in Viet Nam published in 2021, funding for Viet Nam Women's Academy to organize international conference et al.) Especially apart from the funding of Empower project, some partners in Viet Nam mobilized additional financing from international donors and local authorities to optimize the activities. E.g., the Disaster Management Policy and Technology Centre mobilized funding from some other UN agencies to develop the SADDD platform; The CSOs optimized the fund from Empower project and mobilized funds from other donors and local authorities to conduct the initiatives effectively. CECR mobilized up to 1 billion VND from Ocean Conservancy funds to support women coping with the Covid-19 pandemic. The project sometimes faced challenges relating to the new procedures for receiving ODA and managing finances in Viet Nam. The procedures have become very complicated. However, the amount of funding from Empower project is limited. These sometimes made it difficult for mobilizing governmental organizations in Viet Nam to become partners in the project. In addition, the new procedures in Viet Nam on receiving ODA take a long time for fund recipients to get approval from the government to conduct the project activities or to get approval for adjusting activities together with finances. This restricted flexibility of the governmental organizations in Empower project to make activity adjustments adapting to the Covid-19 pandemic context.

Effectiveness

Effectiveness of Output 1: The contribution of Empower project to national policies in Viet Nam is impressive given its limited duration. Empower project with its governmental counterparts, and CSOs contributed to strengthening gender responsiveness in policies: including NDC, NAP, DRR plans, and provincial action plans to respond to climate change through supporting

women in livelihood development and energy use. It's the first time the NDC has included gender-related adjustments. EmPower contributed to the Law of Gender Equality and ensured the gender equality of the environment sector by involving women-led CSOs in developing these laws, policies, and plans. Through the VNGO network established in the Empower project, the link between the CSOs and policymakers in gender, CC and DRR were significantly improved, and the voice of the CSOs on gender, CC, and DRR was strengthened. They developed messages for national and international high-level events such as COP25 and COP26; The initiatives implemented in communities by the CSOs helped to enhance gender equality and improve livelihoods and environment protection of local people. The International Conference on Gender in CC/DRR conducted by Viet Nam Women's Academy achieved better results than expected. More than 200 scholars sent papers on gender, CC, and DRR issues to the conference. Teaching materials such as textbooks and online curriculums attracted students' interest from various national universities in Viet Nam.

Effectiveness of Output 2: Indicators on gender and DRR were developed. Training on SADDD collection helped committees for natural disaster prevention and control have knowledge and techniques to collect the data in localities. A national data form of SADDD was built, and the data was collected in some provinces and integrated into Viet Nam Natural Disaster Monitoring System. These contributed to disaster prevention and management. The Empower project resource for building SADDD was very effective in raising awareness of managers working in disaster prevention about the importance of SADDD and supporting to development of the data. Due to the effectiveness and necessity of the SADDD collected, it attracted the investment of other organizations (FAO, UNICEF, GIZ) to develop the database.

Effectiveness of Output 3: Due to training workshops on gender in climate change and DRR, the capacity of policymakers on gender integration into policies was strengthened. Guidelines on gender mainstreaming in disaster prevention were developed. Policymakers have become better aware of gender equality, CC, and DRR and know how to do gender mainstreaming into policies. They contributed to integrating gender into updated NDC and NAP.

Effectiveness of Output 4: NGOs worked with UNEP and Women's Unions in some provinces to provide local women with technical and financial support for RE; building provincial action plans on the livelihood of women and RE; conducting training for local women on production, renewable energy, and business management. As a result, female leaders managed their cooperatives more effectively. RE models helped to improve the economic efficiency of the cooperative's production, reduce labor costs and increase revenue, and contributed to changing the income of local laborers, possibly widening the production of women-led cooperatives in the future.

Sustainability

Socio-economic sustainability: The project might contribute to social development due to building capacity and raising awareness of gender, CC, and DRR. The policy changes will help improve gender equality; the vulnerable groups may be more resilient to disasters due to suitable data support, which refers to collected sex, age, and vulnerability disaggregated data. Promoting sustainable livelihoods and enhancing women's economic empowerment through intervention models will help to improve empowerment for women. The gender and environment textbooks developed due to support of the Empower project are used for teaching at Viet Nam Women's Academy, which might impact young people and reach out to different readers. When they are aware of gender and environmental issues, they hope to contribute to society's development through their professional activities.

Institutional sustainability: Improved capability through Empower project's activities benefits participants. They can make better contributions to their organization and do their jobs better. For example, the knowledge of project management and RE from EmPower project can be utilized by the CSO in their other projects in the future. A leader of a CSO reported that Empower project taught them to manage projects and mobilize resources effectively. In addition, the staff of the committees for natural disaster prevention and control at central and local levels were equipped with techniques to collect socio-economic indicators for disaster prevention. When the National disaster risks database system is strengthened, it will contribute to the better future management of natural disaster prevention and

control. A stakeholder said that the networks and relations between NGOs and policy-making agencies built in the project will still be maintained for future work on gender, CC, and DRR. The bulletins of the Viet Nam non-governmental organization network are still released and bring voices on gender issues to the Department of Climate Change. Empower project integrated gender in climate change and DRR policies and identified indicators and targets in CC and DRR policies.

Environmental sustainability: The initiatives implemented by CSOs for raising people's awareness of environment-related issues, many participants in the project are better aware of their roles and benefits of improving the environment, which contribute to promoting them to protect the environment.

Financial sustainability: The project funding for local initiatives conducted by CSOs was effective. They mobilized funds from local authorities and other donors to implement the initiatives effectively. The intervention models (including the

renewable model and the models developed in the initiatives) in some localities contribute to the development of women's businesses and create opportunities for improving the work and income of local women.

7. Lessons learnt

- The Empower project in Viet Nam was successful because its activities were designed based on suggestions and discussions with partners in Viet Nam. Since the project activities met stakeholders' actual priorities and needs, Empower project could mobilize them for the project. For example, developing training, instructions, and indicators for collecting SADD high met the country's demand. If not for Empower project, it would take a long time for VNDMA to complete the national database on socio-economic features and disasters with disaggregation of sex, age, and vulnerability. These are essential tools for decision-making in disaster management. Due to the training and workshops, policymakers have become better aware of gender equality in association with CC and DRR and know how to mainstream gender into policies. RE model interventions were suitable for climate and infrastructure features of localities, the production of local enterprises, etc.

- The Empower project was adapted to emerging issues of Covid-19. The project was flexible to adapt and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic context and allowed time extension to complement activities as planned.
- Integrating gender, CC, and DRR into plans and programs of localities helps to mobilize more local resources to facilitate community project activities.
- The project applied the common methods designed for many countries, so it might take time for the parties to agree, understand the methods, and adjust to suit the country's context.

8. Recommendations

Recommendations for the project design and management in Phase 2

- More joint activities implemented by UN Women and UNEP should be designed for Phase 2.
- A reporting mechanism between the parties is necessary, and project participants should be provided with detailed information about the overall project. Partners of the project in Viet Nam need to be fully informed about the main activities of the overall project in Vietnam. The project took advantage of partners in Viet Nam to implement project activities, but there should be exchanges of results and experiences among stakeholders in the project.
- More exchanges between regional experts and stakeholders will be needed because they might provide stakeholders in Viet Nam with modern approaches, updated documents, proper procedures to identify the needs and assess the situations of natural disasters, and methods to assess natural disaster damages correctly. In addition, the Empower project should have forums in which partners in Viet Nam and other countries in the region have opportunities to share experiences and challenges on gender, CC, and DRR.
- The connection between stakeholders (including research agencies, policymakers, and policy enforcement agencies such as NGOs, localities, etc.) should be strengthened to realize gender equality and identify gender issues and different gender impacts of climate change and DRR on other regions' affected groups. More joint activities (such as workshops et al.) are needed to strengthen

the connection between stakeholders in the gender, CC and DRR. A cooperation mechanism should be established, such as a link between the technical support parties on gender, climate change, and DRR, agencies implementing gender mainstreaming into policies, programs, and projects in their management fields.

- The EmPower project should select specific and central aspects of CC and DRR in Viet Nam such as the development of practical intervention models for gender, CC, and DRR. It should introduce smart solutions (such as smart agriculture, RE), which can produce good results for policy advocacy and be replicable.

Recommendations for the project's stakeholders in Phase 2

- Stakeholders of the Empower project should be expanded. It is necessary to invite and mobilize relevant ministries and sectors (such as MOLISA, Ministry of Planning and Investment, and Committee of Ethnic Minority Affairs) to participate more deeply in the project, encouraging them to be a channel for conveying content related to gender and environmental policies.
- The project needs more involvement from other objects, including private agencies and men in Phase 2.

Recommendations for the Output 1 in Phase 2

- Gender equality, CC, and DRR interventions must be carried out more in localities by local NGOs. They can work with various community social groups and operate project activities in ways relevant to the local context. These will significantly benefit communities because communities are empowered to carry out the initiatives in their locally effective ways and meet their actual demands. There should be more funding to support local initiatives.
- Support should be more given to women-owned green businesses that use green technology, use climate change adaptation technologies, and have ecological quality standards. More funds are required for initiatives conducted by women-owned enterprises to adapt to climate change.

Recommendations for the Output 2 in Phase 2

- VNDMA needs further support to complement the SADDD national data system. The data need to be collected at commune levels in more localities, especially in the areas vulnerable to CC and DRR.
- There should be training on SADDD for members of committees of disaster prevention of communes.
- It is necessary to develop tools to support mining SADDD for building solutions on CC and DRR that help communities.
- Developing guidelines, documents, and communication on gender integration and vulnerabilities for commune levels are necessary to improve community-based risk management.

Recommendations for the Output 3 in Phase 2

- Good results and experiences learned from phase 1 should be documented for policy advocacy.
- More qualified studies on the impact of gender and climate change, DRR, gender roles, and its interests in CC and DRR need to be conducted, which help to provide evidence for policy advocacy because the research-based evidence will assist the stakeholders in understanding the nature of gender issues in responding to CC and DRR.
- More capacity building should be given to policymakers and agencies at a lower level (such as commune and village levels), who play essential roles in disaster prevention in communities. It is necessary to build capacity for the grassroots officials of women's unions and disaster prevention committees. They will become the pioneering forces in disaster prevention and communication activities on gender, CC, and DRR in communities.

- Guidelines and communication documents on gender, CC, and DRR should be developed for community levels. It's also necessary to establish gender and vulnerability integration guidelines, develop documents for grassroots levels to implement community-based disaster risk management, and know how to integrate gender and vulnerabilities in disaster prevention at grassroots levels.

Recommendations for the Output 4 in Phase 2

- Successful experiences on RE in the region should be shared among the countries in the area.
- Cooperation between stakeholders in the field of RE, including governmental organizations, CSOs, and beneficiaries, should be strengthened.
- The RE model should be scaled up to assist the production of local women in communities where the economy relies on agriculture and weather conditions.
- Communication activities on RE should be developed, which help to improve the awareness of RE so that local people become more willing to invest in RE.

More financial funding and technical support should be given to women-led enterprises to access .

ANNEX 6 – RECONSTRUCTED THEORY OF CHANGE

Theory of Change

The project contributes to the outcome: Countries in Asia and the Pacific are implementing gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions to address key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities.

The project results are based on the Theory of Change:

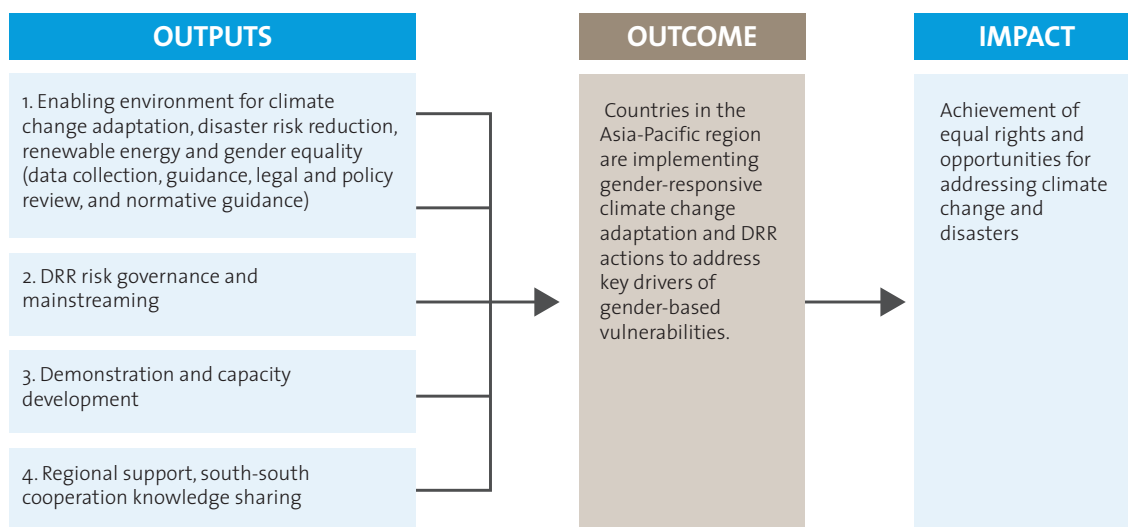
IF (i) Supported women’s voice and participation: CSOs representing women and women’s groups can lead, participate in, and influence climate change and DRR decision-making processes; (ii) Available sex-, age- and diversity-disaggregated data (SADDD): Governments and key stakeholders can generate, analyze and use SADDD to inform climate change and DRR policies and actions; (iii) National engendered policies: National climate change and DRR policymakers can integrate

and enhance responsiveness to gender equality commitments (iv) Access to RE: Women can exercise rights to access and control economic resources, through RE to build resilient and transformative livelihoods; (v) Regional normative processes, knowledge products, and platforms on climate change and DRR integrate and enhance responsiveness to gender equality and human rights.

THEN Women in Asia and the Pacific are more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters.

BECAUSE implementation of climate change and DRR actions in Asia and the Pacific addresses critical drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities and enhances human rights.

FIGURE 2: Reconstructed theory of change



Assumptions

1. National commitments to address gender inequality and integrate human rights into development.
2. Governments are seeking ways to prevent and address impacts of climate change and disasters, to ensure adaptive capacity and resilience of their citizens.
3. Stakeholders will use the knowledge, tools and methodologies to influence policy processes.
4. The private and public sector, United Nations agencies and CSOs are willing to cooperate.
5. Enabling factors for achievement of SDGs

ANNEX 7

TERMS OF REFERENCE EVALUATION MANAGEMENT & REFERENCE GROUPS

Joint Evaluation of the EmPower Regional Project on Gender, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction
[UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific]

I. Background

The latest assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes how observed and predicted changes in climate affect billions of people and the ecosystems, natural resources and physical infrastructure. Asia and the Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts and natural disasters in the world. According to the World Risk Report¹, 10 out of 15 most at-risk countries are located in this region. Asia and the Pacific accounts for over 90 per cent of all global deaths from disasters, where 70 per cent of the disasters are climate-related. The region combines high exposure to frequent and damaging natural hazards with low human and institutional capacity to manage the resulting risks.

These harmful impacts pose a direct threat to human lives and safety as well as more gradual forms of environmental degradation that will undermine access to key resources that support human life, such as clean water and food. As a consequence, climate change will have a profound effect on human rights for individuals and communities across the planet. According to a report from the Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights, climate change “poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has implications for the full enjoyment of human rights”. The rights most endangered by climate change impacts include the fundamental rights to life, health, food, water, and adequate standard of living. In many

countries in Asia, this is already a reality. Conversely, vulnerability to climate change and disasters largely results from inequalities and failures in the fulfilment of human rights.

When disaster hits, the most affected are always the poorer and in Asia and the Pacific 80 per cent of all those living under 2 USD per day are women². Inadequate and unequal women’s access to essential resources and means of implementation, such as land, water, finance, information, technology, and energy, makes women extremely vulnerable to climate change and undermines their capacity to adapt. A large proportion of women in Asia and the Pacific derive their livelihoods from climate-sensitive sectors, which threatens women’s ability to generate income, and secure food and nutrition. These factors represent significant barriers to enjoying their basic human rights and there is insufficient investment in strengthening their capacity and addressing their limited access to resources.

UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in partnership with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is undertaking a joint evaluation of the EmPower programme to deepen the understanding of gender equality and human rights issues in the context of climate change and disasters in Asia, as well share programme results and lessons learned with the stakeholders and development practitioners with the intention of promoting lessons and replication of good practices.

- 1 UNU-EHS and BEH, 2016. World Risk Report 2016. United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security and Alliance Development Works/Bündis, Bonn/Berlin. Available at: www.WorldRiskReport.org
- 2 Regional Asia-Pacific Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction (2016). Ha Noi Recommendations for Action on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction. Available at: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/submissions/52737_hanoirecommendationfinal13julen.pdf.

II. Purpose and Use of the Joint Evaluation

As the EmPower Project is approaching the end of the project timeframe, an independent final evaluation will be undertaken during the last year of the EmPower project, as per EmPower's Project Document and Programme Cooperation Agreement. It will be a joint evaluation between UN Women and UNEP, in accordance with the guidance from UN Evaluation Group, and involve the evaluation units of both organizations following their evaluation policies. The purpose of the evaluation is to feed into learning about what worked well with respect to the joint approach to gender-responsive rights-based climate change

resilience and DRR and what can be improved, and will serve accountability purposes, it will also feed into decision-making regarding a potential phase II of the project. The primary evaluation users (UN Women and UNEP Regional office for Asia and the Pacific) will use the evaluation to further strategize for gender-responsive climate actions. It will be also used by the EmPower team and stakeholders to design the possible Phase II of the project. Secondary users within the respective organizations and partners will use the information to learn about what works to integrate gender in climate change and disaster risk reduction approaches. The donor SiDA may use the evaluation as input for decision-making purposes.

Primary & Secondary Intended Users	Primary Intended Use	Female	Male	Methodology
	Learning & Knowledge Generation	Strategic Decision-Making	Accountability	Capacity Development & Mobilisation
UN Women & UNEP ROAP Personnel	X	X	X	X
UN Women & UNEP CO/HQ EmPower Personnel	X	X		
UN Women IEAS	X			
UN Coordination Partners	X		X	
Primary Target groups (individuals, communities, programme / project partners)	X		X	X
National and local governments	X		X	X
Civil Society Representatives	X		X	X
Donors & Multilateral Partners	X	X	X	

III. Objectives of the Joint Evaluation

The overall objective of the joint evaluation is to assess progress made over the project period towards the attainment of the intended outcome “countries in Asia and the Pacific are implementing gender-responsive climate change and DRR actions to address key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities,” and the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, human rights, and gender equality, including a look into how the most vulnerable groups (focusing on women, including those living in remote disaster prone rural areas in the EmPower project’s context) were engaged in the project. It will also assess environmental safeguards taken by the project and contributions towards impact. It should also provide an assessment of how EmPower has integrated the recommendations and lessons learned from the Mid-term Review. It will also provide inputs and give guidance for the potential Phase II of the EmPower Project. The performance of the project will be assessed against the indicators presented in the results and reporting framework. The joint evaluation will:

1. Assess the relevance and UN system coherence with respect to programme design and implementation;
2. Assess the effectiveness and organizational efficiency of the approaches implemented in attaining the intended results;
3. Assess the contribution towards impact, unintended consequences, potential for sustainability, and integration of human rights and gender equality in design and implementation; and
4. Produce lessons learned and issue actionable recommendations for the potential EmPower phase II or similar programming.

IV. Management of the Joint Evaluation

The joint evaluation will be jointly managed by both UN Women and UNEP. UN Women and UNEP would support the evaluators in the evaluation process, including preparation, conduct, reporting, however, should not interfere with the impartiality of the evaluation. UN Women and UNEP will support the logistical support needed, such as materials and

office space (only if the situation of COVID-19 at the time of the evaluation allows). UN Women and UNEP would jointly engage in the planning and reporting stages. The joint evaluation will have an Evaluation Management Group (EMG) and an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) to facilitate the management of the evaluation.

The joint evaluation will have the following groups:

- **Co-managers:** UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Service, will take the lead in co-managing the evaluation in close coordination and consultation with UNEP Independent Evaluation Office. The evaluation co-managers will ensure the independence and impartiality of the evaluation process given that they are not engaged in the management or implementation of the programme. They will provide guidance on methodology and oversee the quality assurance; and serve as the main contact with the evaluation team but will work closely with the Evaluation Management Group to manage the logistics.
- **Evaluation Management Group (EMG):** the EMG includes the evaluation managers and programme personnel from UN Women and UNEP. It oversees the day-to-day management of the evaluation, also provides logistics and other types of support. The EMG is responsible for providing overall quality assurance on the evaluation process and deliverables.
- **Evaluation Reference Group (ERG):** In addition, the joint evaluation requires an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) to ensure that the voices of stakeholders are heard and responded to through the evaluation process. The ERG will review evaluation products for factual correctness, possible misinterpretations, or major gaps. It is important to ensure their ownership of the evaluation process, as they are also representing the organizations that will carry forward the recommendations. The ERG should be limited to 6-8 people max and represent the diverse range of stakeholders from CSOs, UN agencies, governments, and the donor.
- **Evaluation team:** A 3-member evaluation team is proposed. One International team leader with expertise in evaluation and with experience evaluating climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives; the team leader is responsible

for the overall evaluation and ensuring quality of the evaluation products; and two national consultants (one each in two of the programme countries) will be engaged to lead the case studies in country and support the team leader with data collection and analysis; they should have experience in evaluation; the co-managers along with the UN Women Project Manager will recruit and manage the consultants, yet the evaluation team leader will liaise directly with the national consultants and will be responsible for the final evaluation products.

V. Composition and Function of the Evaluation Reference Group

The Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) is an integral part of the joint evaluation management structure and is constituted to facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in the design and scope of the joint evaluation, raising awareness of the different information needs, quality assurance throughout the process and in disseminating the evaluation results.

ERG will be composed of relevant EmPower stakeholders including Project Steering Committee (PSC) members, civil society organisations, academia, government, UN entities and donors.

ERG members will be expected to:

- Join an inception meeting with the evaluation team to provide feedback on the proposed evaluation approach.
- Join a preliminary findings meeting to validate the findings and identify factual errors, gaps, or possible misinterpretation of data
- Participate in an interview as requested
- Provide input and quality review of the key evaluation products including the inception report and a draft evaluation report.
- Participate in learning activities related to the joint evaluation report and dissemination of the findings

VI. Annexes

- Terms of Reference of the Joint Evaluation of the EmPower Regional Project on Gender, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction
- UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation (2016): [link](#)
- UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations (2020): [link](#)
- Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation (2014): [link](#)
- UN Women GERAAS evaluation report quality checklist
- UN Women Evaluation Consultants Agreement Form
- UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System
- UN Women Evaluation Handbook
- UNEP Guidance (to be provided to the selected consultants)

Evaluation Member Group (EMG) and Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)

Evaluation Member Group (EMG)

#	Org.	Name	Gender	Position
1	UNEP	Mozaharul Alam	M	Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, UNEP ROAP
2	UNEP	Janet Wildish	F	Senior Evaluation Officer, UNEP, Nairobi
3	UNEP	Annette Sanna Christina Wallgren	F	Programme Management Officer, Gender and Climate Change, UNEP Asia Pacific Office
4	UNEP	Parimita Mohanty	F	Programme Management Officer, UNEP ROAP
5	UN Women	Sarah Knibbs	F	Regional Director OIC, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
6	UN Women	Sabrina Evangelista	F	Regional Evaluation Specialist Asia and the Pacific, UN Women Independent Evaluation Service
7	UN Women	Maria Holtsberg	F	Regional Humanitarian/DRR specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
8	UN Women	Bobae Lee	F	Regional Gender and Climate Change Expert, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Female: Male ratio			7:1	Out of 8 members, 7 members are female

Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)

#	Name	Gender	Position
1	Mr. Le Quang Tuan	M	Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, UNEP ROAP
2	Mr. Miguel Musngi	M	Senior Evaluation Officer, UNEP, Nairobi
3	Prof. Joyashree Roy	F	Bangabandhu Chair Professor, School of Environment, Resources and Development Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (Energy)
4	Mr. Shadman Bin Zahir	M	IDCOL, Bangladesh
5	Ms. Syeda Amirun Nuzhat	F	Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies, Bangladesh
6	Mr. Vatanak Chheng	M	National Commission of Decentralisation (NCDDS), Cambodia
7	Ms. Oeun Samposh	F	Senior Capacity Building Officer, Action Aid Cambodia
8	Ms. Tove Goldmann	F	First Secretary, Environment and Climate Change, Development Cooperation Section, Sida-Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok
9	Nguyen Sy Linh, PhD	M	ISPONRE
10	Mr. Van anh	M	CHIASE
Female: Male ratio		2:3	4 females out of 10 members

ANNEX 8 - KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PACKAGE

Title	Description
Project communications materials	
Project brief	Summary of the project activities
EmPower for the SDGs	Brief explaining the connection between the project and the global frameworks
EmPower's work on renewables	Summary of the project on renewable energy and gender equality
Fact sheet: Costing gender equality in climate change action	Rationale of costing non-economic issues of climate change and gender equality UN Women's work on costing climate change and gender equality as well as violence against women
Brief on Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change and DRR Policies	Summary looking at existing aspects of mainstreaming gender in climate actions
Climate Change and Women in Agriculture	Fact sheet on how climate change affects women in the agriculture sector
In the Loop Issue No.1	EmPower's official bi-annual newsletter (2021)
COVID analysis and assessment	
Think-piece on Gender and Climate Change in the Context of COVID-19	An analysis, position paper and policy recommendations for states and partners based on EmPower's work and implications of the novel coronavirus and associated impacts on gender equality and climate change.
Impact of COVID-19 on Women in the Blue Economy	Fact sheet on how women engaged in the blue economy are impacted by both climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic
Output 1	
Training manual on gender and climate resilience	Capacity building tool for CSOs working on gender mainstreaming at national and subnational levels. Available in English and to be prepared in Bangla, Khmer and Vietnamese in early 2022. The training of trainers package in English to be published in early December 2021, other languages versions would be distributed by partner CSOs.
Accelerating gender responsive action through empowered CSOs	This report provides a background of gender-differentiated vulnerabilities in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction, and the importance of civil society organizations (CSOs) in enhancing resilience of the most vulnerable, including women and girls. At the same time, it summarizes the results of a primary study done to understand the existing gaps that CSOs experience in advocating for gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes at different levels.

Title	Description
RE-Envision Resilience Virtual Photobook	The Re-Envision Resilience Virtual Photobook walk us along pictures of real-life women climate champions who are powerful individuals in their own right, each with her own story. The Photobook aims to amplify nine stories of those inspirational champions who have made change in their home and communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.
Bangladesh	
Manual/Guideline: Women’s capacity building and empowerment in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation	Training manual on gender, climate change adaptation, DRR and organizational framework for strengthening capacities of CSOs
Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change Resilience (in Bangla)	Translated Training Manual of ARROW in Bangla on Gender and Climate Change Resilience (will be ready by the end of November 2021)
Community Risk Assessment (CRA) with SADDD Approach in selected Union	The assessment aims to help prepare gender responsive adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans for poor women, children, elderly persons, and disadvantaged communities. The CRA studies covering five most vulnerable districts of Bangladesh utilised a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) as methodology.
Cambodia	
Participatory Research on Gender Based Vulnerabilities to Climate Change	Participatory action research, available both in English and Khmer.
Training manual: Masterclass ‘A rights-based approach to gender and climate change’	A manual to develop a common understanding of the gender equality dimensions of climate action.
Viet Nam	
Training manual for Viet Nam Women’s Union officials on Gender Analysis and Advocacy Skills in Community based Disaster Risk Management	A training manual on gender analysis and advocacy skills in community- based disaster risk management for Viet Nam Women’s Union officials.
Key messages on gender and climate change for COP26 from the women’s led CSO network in Viet Nam	Key message on gender and Climate change for COP26 developed by the women led CSO network on gender and climate change in Viet Nam
International conference on Gender in Disaster risk reduction and climate change proceedings International conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate change proceedings	A collection of 37 research papers on different topics related to gender in climate change and disaster risk reduction from Vietnamese and international researchers.
Output 2	
Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Change and Disaster- related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	Thematic set of indicators proposed by UN Women based on the regional set of indicators on gender and environment
Bangladesh	
Model Questionnaire in Bangla for SADDD on CCA and DRR. xlsx	The questionnaire has been developed in English and later finalized in Bangla to collect Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
Enumerators Manual on the Model Questionnaire of Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	Enumerators Bangla Manual has been developed on the Bangla Model Questionnaire of SADDD in CCA and DRR to guide the field enumerators on the pilot survey

Title	Description
Pilot Survey Report on Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	The pilot survey report is the analysis of Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data that has been collected through the Model Questionnaire on CCA and DRR (to be published by early 2022)
Cambodia	
Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Change and Disaster- related Statistics in Cambodia	Thematic set of indicators proposed by UN Women based on the regional set of indicators on gender and environment To be finalised by Q1 2022
Assessment of gaps, needs and priorities for gender related data on climate change and disaster in Cambodia.	Analysis of key issues, gaps, needs and priorities for gender related data on disaster risk management and climate change in Cambodia. The report also provides a list of recommendation for actions to improve gender data in DRR and CC.
The Cambodia's women resilience index	Cambodia Women's Resilience Index (WRI) identifies areas that need to be strengthened in both policy and practice, and where women can advocate for positive change.
Viet Nam	
Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Change and Disaster- related Statistics in Vietnam	Thematic set of indicators proposed by UN Women based on the regional set of indicators on gender and environment To be finalised by December 2021
Guideline on collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data for disaster risk monitoring	Guideline on collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data in the database for disaster risk monitoring
Output 3	
Bangladesh	
Rapid appraisal on CcGAP progress review in Bangladesh	A rapid appraisal of Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) progress review and stock taking in Bangladesh
A Brief Review of Projects under the Department of Environment, and the Department of Women Affairs from a Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Perspective	Stock- taking of the projects of Department of Environment (DoE) and Department of Women Affairs (DWA) which have the targets for gender equality and/or women empowerment and development
State of gender equality and climate change report with a Brief for Policy makers	National Assessment of linkages between gender equality and climate change with the focus on a few selected adaptation and mitigation sectors
Policy Brief on the Interlinkages between Gender Equality and Climate Change Adaptation	Policy review on the interlinkages between gender equality and climate change adaptation that will synthesis the findings of the national assessment report (to be published in January 2022)
Webinar Report on Disaggregated Data for Resilience Building	Webinar report on the Disaggregated Data for Resilience Building, was held in January 2021 in 7th Annual Gobeshona International conference
Webinar Report on Untold Tales of Women Champions in Climate Change	Webinar report on the Untold Tales of Women Champions in Climate Change, was held in January 2021 in 7th Annual Gobeshona International Conference

Title	Description
Cambodia	
Policy brief: Policy Commitments for integrating gender issues into climate change action and disaster risk reduction	A review of the current policy frameworks and commitments of the Government of Cambodia to address gender equality issues in climate change and DRR including submissions made by Cambodia to international conventions ratified thus far as well as existing legislations and policies
State of gender equality and climate change report with a Brief for policymakers	Assessment of linkages between gender equality and climate change with the focus on a few selected adaptation and mitigation sectors
Gender mainstreaming guideline in disaster management	To be launched in November 2021
Viet Nam	
Technical briefing paper: Integrating gender and social inclusion into updated NDC development and implementation in Viet Nam	Analysis of gender in NDC of Viet Nam and provide recommendations to the integration of gender and social inclusion in the NDC update and review. This is a joint product by UN Women, GIZ and CCWG and this have been shared with MONRE for their consideration.
Key messages to COP 25 on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment	Key advocacy messages developed by a network of women led CSOs working on climate change to raise gender issues in climate change to COP 25.
State of gender equality and climate change report with a Brief for policymakers	Assessment of linkages between gender equality and climate change with the focus on a few selected adaptation and mitigation sectors
Review report of the implementation of National Strategy on Climate change 2011-2020 from gender lens	Review the implementation of National Strategy on Climate change 2011- 2020 from gender lens and provide recommendations for gender mainstreaming in new National Strategy 2021-2030
Output 4	
Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Women and Energy Enterprises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary study • The report on Bangladesh • The report on Cambodia • The report on Viet Nam 	A rapid socio-economic assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on rural households and women entrepreneurs in EmPower project areas in each of the participating country to help the project team to understand the impact and if any of the project activities are to be repurposed/realigned to address the impact
Bangladesh	
Approach Paper for Scoping Study for Women's Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Generation through Renewable Energy in Bangladesh	A preliminary assessment to identify the potential livelihood generating options and women's enterprise that can be developed /strengthened
Cambodia	
Approach Paper for Scoping Study on Women's Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Generation through Renewable Energy in Cambodia	A preliminary assessment to identify the potential livelihood generating options and women's enterprise that can be developed /strengthened
Viet Nam	
Approach Paper for Scoping Study on Women's Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Generation through Renewable Energy in Viet Nam	A preliminary assessment to identify the potential livelihood generating options and women's enterprise that can be developed /strengthened

Title	Description
Selection criteria for Renewable Energy and Climate-resilient Livelihoods	Contains the shortlisting criteria to be considered for selecting enterprise/s and women entrepreneurial groups (identified during the scoping studies) related to Renewable Energy, women entrepreneurship and climate resilience activities under EmPower project
Output 5	
Costing Options for Measuring Gender Equality in Climate Action	<p>A report making the case for monetarily costing gender and climate change and assessing the challenges in developing a unified methodology of assigning monetary values to processes of climate change and gender relations</p> <p>For this reason, the audience for this report is broad and includes policy-makers and policy analysts, academics and independent researchers, gender advocates working in non-government and civil society organizations, and the general public.</p>
Climate change, gender equality and human rights in Asia - Regional review and promising practices	<p>Report covers interlinkages of human rights and climate change from the key livelihood perspective in the region</p> <p>It presents case studies and best practices how to address human rights from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam</p>
Powering Equality: Women's entrepreneurship transforming Asia's energy sector	<p>A publication presenting the opportunity for women's access to distributed renewable energy and women's entrepreneurship as a key to spur the renewable energy transition, exploring cases from Asia and the Pacific.</p>
Gender Integration in Renewable Energy Policy: A Guideline for Renewable Energy Policy and Decision Makers	<p>This guideline is developed to address the gender-blind energy policies and actions in the region. It targets policymakers in the energy sector (i.e. energy policymakers, finance institutions and energy service providers).</p>
Gender Integration in Renewable Energy Policy: A Guideline for Renewable Energy Policy and Decision Makers Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific and two policy briefs: on Asia and Pacific	<p>An assessment of the current status of gender-aware and disability-inclusive Sendai achievements in the Asia-Pacific region including a review of national DRR plans and implementation</p>
The Only Way Is Up: Monitoring and Encouraging Diverse SOGIESC Inclusion in the Humanitarian and DRR Sectors	<p>Study on LGBTIQ inclusion in humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific (case studies on Bangladesh, the Philippines and Fiji)</p> <p>Methodology to assess LGBTIQ inclusion in humanitarian action in the region</p> <p>Review of humanitarian response plans, humanitarian needs overviews, post-disaster needs assessments and other documents on LGBTIQ aspects</p>
Basics of Mainstreaming Gender into Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies	<p>A policy paper reviewing of gender mainstreaming and interventions by countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific including tools and approaches to mainstreaming gender into climate change (CC) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies</p>
Renewable Energy and Women Entrepreneurship Programmes: A Guidebook in Design and Implementation	<p>A user-friendly tool for institutions as well as project developers and practitioners to plan, design, and implement renewable energy-based women entrepreneurship projects</p> <p>To be released in January 2022</p>

Title	Description
<p>Is 1.5°C within Reach for the Asia-Pacific Region? Ambition and Potential of NDC Commitments of the Asia-Pacific Countries Asia-Pacific</p> <p>Interactive map on Asia-Pacific's Progress towards Gender-Responsive NDCs</p>	<p>A joint report by UNESCAP, UNEP, UN Women and the greenwerk</p> <p>Scenario-based assessment of the collective NDC commitments of countries in the Asia-Pacific region and their individual commitments to action. It also explores the progress in climate action, climate finance, and monitoring and reporting and gender mainstreaming.</p>
<p>State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN report and Policy Brief</p>	<p>A report co-developed with the ASEAN secretariat and the Stockholm Environment Institute that analyzes the gendered impacts of climate change in the Southeast Asia and suggests ways to enhance and mainstream gender equality into climate-relevant sectoral policies and actions.</p>
<p>ASEAN Renewable Energy and Gender equality Roadmap</p>	<p>The ASEAN RE-Gender Roadmap to chart a pathway to incorporate gender-responsive policy in renewable energy development in ASEAN towards an inclusive and productive policy while ensuring environmental sustainability of the energy sector.</p>
Nepal	
<p>State of gender equality and climate change report with a Brief for Policymakers</p>	<p>Assessment of linkages between gender equality and climate change with the focus on a few selected adaptation and mitigation sectors</p> <p>To be uploaded onto the EmPower website in December 2021</p>

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.
A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS
ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE
PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS
WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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