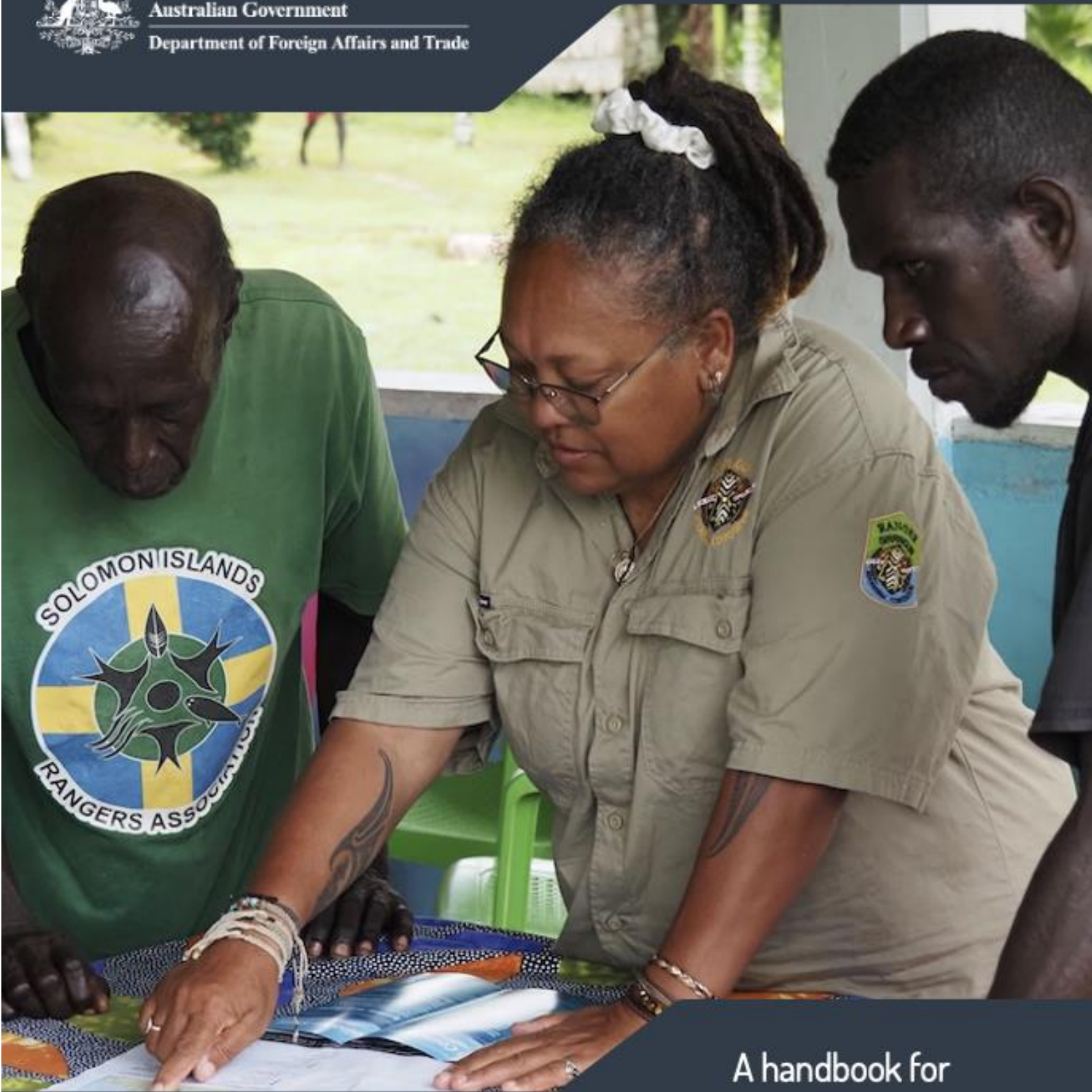




Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



OUTCOMES AT THE NEXUS

A handbook for
developing inclusive
program outcomes that
address the intersection
of **gender equality**
and **climate change**

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Cover image: Indigenous Australian volunteer and Bundjalung Traditional Owner Cindy-Lou Togo (centre), discussing marine use zones with rangers from the Pusiju community in Solomon Islands as part of the Indigenous Conservation Knowledge Exchange in 2023. Photo: Alice Tamang/AVI

Part 1: Introduction

Australia's commitments to climate change, gender equality and disability equity and rights in international development

Climate change, gender equality and disability equity and rights are relevant to and interconnected with all sectors in which Australia delivers Official Development Assistance (ODA). Addressing these issues is part of effective development programming and critical for achieving impact.

[Australia's International Development Policy](#) (2023) introduces an ambitious agenda for the integration of gender equality and climate change in Australia's development and humanitarian programming. It sets out dual requirements for investments valued at \$3 million and above to address both gender equality and climate change:

1. From 2022, new development investments of more than \$3 million must include gender equality objectives (End of Program Outcomes or Intermediate Outcomes), in line with the OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker.¹
2. From 2024–25, at least half of all new bilateral and regional investments valued at more than \$3 million have a climate change objective (End of Program Outcome or Intermediate Outcome) with a goal of reaching 80 per cent in 2028–29, in line with the OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate.²

DFAT also recommends that development investments include outcomes that advance disability equity and rights and use of the OECD DAC Disability Policy Marker.³

For both gender equality and climate change, investment outcomes reflect the level of ambition aligned with the relevant OECD DAC policy marker:

- If a program has a 'principal' focus on climate or gender equality according to the relevant OECD DAC policy marker, this means gender equality or climate is the *primary purpose* of the investment. Climate or gender outcomes should be End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs).
- If a program has a 'significant' focus on climate or gender according to the relevant OECD DAC policy marker, this means gender equality or climate are *mainstreamed* across the investment. The climate or gender equality outcomes are more likely to be Intermediate Outcomes (IOs).
- Investments may have differing levels of ambition on climate change and gender equality and may approach these issues separately in the program logic.

¹ <https://web.archive.org/temp/2024-02-06/369190-dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

² <https://web.archive.org/temp/2023-05-22/658061-rioconventions.htm>

³ [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT\(2020\)48/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)48/en/pdf)

How to use this resource

This resource provides guidance for DFAT officers and development partners to meet the requirements of Australia's International Development Policy by developing quality program outcomes that address the nexus of gender equality and climate change, and support meaningful and impactful participation by people with disabilities.

This resource can help DFAT staff and program designers to understand how gender equality and climate change intersect in all major sectors of Australia's development program, and to design investment outcomes that address both priorities. It is a resource to inform the program logic and to meet the [DFAT Design and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards](#).

Skip to the sector most relevant to your design using the hyperlinks in the table of contents.

Each sector provides a summary of key sector-specific gender equality and climate change issues, followed by a list of example outcomes. Programming case studies illustrate work at the gender-climate nexus in the relevant sector.

Users should note:

- ✓ The issues and example outcomes **are not prescriptive or comprehensive**. Program outcomes must be tailored to the program and examples provided **should not be 'cut and pasted'** into new investment designs.
- ✓ Program logic should be developed with **local stakeholders** and be **fit for purpose** for the country/regional context, and be **realistic, achievable and measurable**.
- ✓ Example outcomes in this handbook provide **ideas to inform the design process**, but do not represent the breadth of what is required to address climate change or achieve gender equality.
- ✓ Outcomes can be at **different levels**. What may be an IO for one investment could be an EOPO for another due to differences in context and resourcing. This is linked to the program's level of ambition on climate change and gender equality.
- ✓ It is not always appropriate or possible for a single outcome to cover both gender equality and climate change. In these cases, identifying separate outcomes will make the program logic clearer.
- ✓ Attention to **disability equity and rights** within EOPOs and IOs is strongly recommended to enable access for people with disabilities, address discrimination and ensure program effectiveness.
- ✓ Support in designing outcomes is available from designmail@dfat.gov.au.

Where example outcomes in this resource refers to women, this should be interpreted as **women in all their diversity**. Gender is not binary and diverse gender identities exist across contexts. Gender inequalities intersect with other inequalities such as disability, age, ethnicity, diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), poverty, indigeneity, geography, and refugee and migrant status.

Gender equality and climate outcomes and DFAT's Design Standards

Investment outcomes are developed during the investment design process and describe the results an investment intends to achieve. There are two types of investment outcomes:

End-of-Program Outcome (EOPO): The desired development change that can be achieved within the investment's duration. EOPOs should define an 'end state' when the outcome has been achieved; who or what is expected to change; the type of change expected; and by when the change is expected to occur.

Intermediate Outcome (IO): The short and medium-term effects of an investment's outputs. Short term outcomes include changes in knowledge, attitudes and skills. Medium term outcomes reflect changes in behaviour, practice and decisions. IOs support the achievement of EOPOs.

It is recommended that an investment design has no more than two or three EOPOs; and no more than four IOs for each EOPO.

The *process* of developing outcome statements is critical. Outcome statements are most effective when based on participatory and inclusive program analysis and design principles. For further information see DFAT's [International Development Programming Guide](#)⁴, [Gender Equality in Investment Design Good Practice Note](#)⁵, [Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Analysis Good Practice Note](#)⁶, [Integrating climate change into Australia's development assistance Good Practice Note](#)⁷, and [Disability Inclusion in the DFAT Development Program Good Practice Note](#)⁸.

Gender equality and climate change outcomes

Gender equality EOPOs and IOs aim to ensure that the benefits of international development are equitable and that structural gender inequalities are reduced or eliminated. Outcomes which include a focus on disability equity are highly recommended.

Climate change EOPOs and IOs aim to address climate change by reducing emissions and supporting low carbon development; considering climate and disaster risk; supporting adaptation to the impacts of climate change and disasters; and building climate and disaster resilience.

Gender equality and climate change nexus EOPOs and IOs address *both* climate change and gender equality. They must be underpinned by evidence to respond to specific climate risks and opportunities, gendered barriers, and root causes of development challenges in the relevant location, sector and for the target group.

⁴ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/international-development-programming-guide>

⁵ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/gender-equality-in-investment-design-good-practice-note>

⁶ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/gender-equality-disability-and-social-inclusion-analysis-good-practice-note>

⁷ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/good-practice-note-integrating-climate-change-development-assistance-implementing-partners>

⁸ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/disability-inclusive-development-guidance-note>



Above: Ellen Tamata, who leads a disaster response network by and for women with disabilities through ActionAid Vanuatu, at the launch of the National Disaster Management Office Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction handbook. The handbook was supported by the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY program. Source: CARE

What is the gender equality-climate change nexus?

Gender equality and climate change are linked and interact with each other, and sustainable development requires addressing both gender inequality and climate change in an integrated way. Gender equality and climate action can work together to mutually reinforce and increase progress. For example, preventing gender-based violence can promote greater environmental outcomes, including those that advance ambitious climate action.⁹ Green growth can open opportunities for women's employment in emerging low-carbon economies.¹⁰ Women entrepreneurs can foster innovation and competition for climate adaptation and mitigation.¹¹


The Indo-Pacific is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change. Pacific Island leaders have declared climate change as the single greatest threat to Pacific Island people¹². More frequent and intense extreme weather events, as well as slow onset impacts like reduced rainfall and sea level rise, are making existing inequalities worse and disproportionately affecting women, girls and gender-diverse people, especially people in

⁹ I Castaneda Carney, L Sabater, C Owren, AE Boyer, J Wren, [Gender-based violence and environmental linkages](https://www.iucn.org/resources/publication/gender-based-violence-and-environment-linkages), IUCN website, 2020, accessed 29 January 2024. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/publication/gender-based-violence-and-environment-linkages>

¹⁰ GGGI. No date. Gender and Inclusive Development. <https://gggi.org/theme/gender-and-inclusive-development/>

¹¹ UN Women. 2023. Empowering Female Entrepreneurs: Overcoming Climate Change Challenges. <https://wrds.unwomen.org/explore/insights/empowering-female-entrepreneurs-overcoming-climate-change-challenges>

¹² Pacific Islands Forum, [Boe Declaration on regional security](https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/), Pacific Islands Forum website, n.d., accessed 24 January 2024. <https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>



rural areas and those experiencing other forms of marginalisation¹³. For example, climate change is increasing economic insecurity with gendered flow-on effects including coping strategies (e.g. girls dropping out of school and increased child marriage), psychosocial stress leading to increased rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and greater exposure to SGBV (e.g. as a result of migration and displacement). Climate change is also increasing unpaid women's care burdens (e.g. increased time collecting water and firewood as natural resources become more scarce).

Women and gender diverse people are already engaged in climate action, from acting as first responders in disasters to adapting agricultural practices. This is because of their social and cultural roles (such as women's traditional household roles) and their lower levels of access to economic resources, which mean they can be more reliant on natural and public resources for livelihoods. Collective climate action by women is widespread, growing, and could be advanced by increasing women's leadership. More women in national parliaments leads to more-ambitious climate change policies and lower emissions.¹⁴ Diverse women's leadership in disaster risk reduction enhances community buy-in, improves information flow and enables better-targeted programs.¹⁵

People with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, experience multiple barriers stemming from discriminatory attitudes and policies, as well as inaccessible environments and ways of sharing information. The impacts of climate change create additional challenges for people with disabilities, which increases their climate risk. Whilst existing research describes how people with disabilities are impacted by climate change, a knowledge gap remains regarding disability-inclusive climate programming.¹⁶ Engaging people with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) is necessary to address their heightened climate risks.¹⁷

First Nations people, especially women, are disproportionately affected by climate change, stemming from their close relationship with the environment. First Nations peoples in Australia and our region have Indigenous and local knowledge of their environment and the impacts of climate change. Working in partnership with First Nations peoples and Traditional Knowledge Holders can help create effective responses to climate change. This includes recognising the knowledge and skills of Indigenous women and supporting their leadership in decision-making processes and disaster planning, response and recovery.¹⁸

¹³ E Howard, [Linking gender, climate change and security in the Pacific Islands Region: A systematic review](#). *Ambio*, 2023, Mar;52(3):518-533. doi: 10.1007/s13280-022-01813-0. Epub 2022 Dec 12. PMID: 36508147; PMCID: PMC9744053.

¹⁴ A Mavisakalyan and Y Tarverdi, 'Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make difference?', *European Journal of Political Economy*, 2019, 56(C):151-164. doi:10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2018.08.001

¹⁵ A Erman, SA De Vries Robbé, SF Thies, K Kabir and M Maruo, [Gender dimensions of disaster risk and resilience: existing evidence](#), World Bank, Washington, DC, 2021. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/35202>

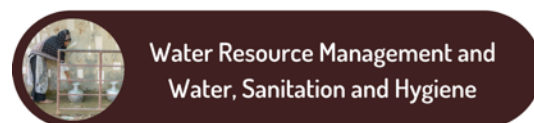
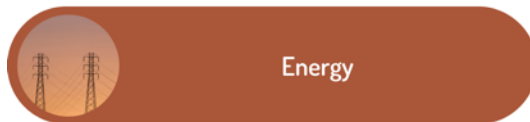
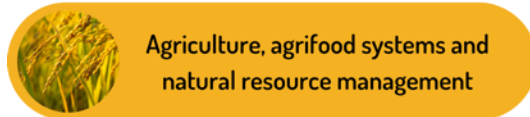
¹⁶ Hasan, F. and Corby, N. (2023) '[Disability inclusion in climate justice frameworks and environmental and climate risk assessment processes](#)', Disability Inclusion Helpdesk Research Report No. 97. London, UK: Disability Inclusion Helpdesk.

¹⁷ Pacific Disability Forum (2022). '[Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific](#)'.

¹⁸ Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, [Thematic brief: Women and climate change in the Pacific](#), Pacific Women Lead, Pacific Data Hub, 2021, accessed 17 January 2024. <https://pacificdata.org/data/dataset/pwl-thematic-brief-women-and-climate-change-in-the-pacific>

Part 2: Gender-climate outcomes across sectors

Skip ahead to the relevant sector using the hyperlinks below.





Agriculture, agrifood systems and natural resource management

Agrifood systems – encompassing the production, distribution and consumption of food – are responsible for around 30 percent of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Changing temperature and rainfall patterns are driving crop and fisheries failures, increasing pest and disease outbreaks, and degrading land and water resources.¹⁹ These impacts are most acutely felt in lower middle-income countries where dependence on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources leaves millions of smallholder farmers vulnerable – many of them women. These communities provide 70–80 per cent of the world’s food.²⁰ Sustainable agrifood systems can help adaptation, mitigate emissions, strengthen resilience and reverse environmental degradation.²¹

Women smallholders are vulnerable to climate impacts. They are often more dependent on agriculture and natural resources and have fewer assets to absorb shocks. Social norms mean that women often have less access to and control over agricultural resources such as land, capital, labour, technologies, and financial services. Women’s networks are often smaller than men’s offering fewer opportunities for learning about climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies²² which sustainably increase productivity, enhance resilience, reduce emissions and strengthen food security.

Whilst agriculture is a major livelihood for people with disabilities, negative attitudes about their capacity and productivity often excludes people with disabilities from community farming and networks.²³ Women with disabilities are twice as likely as women without disabilities to experience food insecurity.²⁴

The contributions of women farmers and other marginalised groups are critical in adapting agrifood systems to be more climate-resilient. If women had the same access to resources as men, they could increase yields by 20-30 per cent, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4 per cent. This could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 100-150 million.²⁵

¹⁹ World Bank. 2022. What You Need to Know About Food Security and Climate Change. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/10/17/what-you-need-to-know-about-food-security-and-climate-change>

²⁰ FAO. 2023. Agrifood solutions to climate change – FAO's work to tackle the climate crisis. Rome <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8055en>

²¹ FAO. 2023. Agrifood solutions to climate change – FAO's work to tackle the climate crisis. Rome <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8055en>

²² EMPOWER and UN Women. https://www.unccllearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/02-issue-brief_climate-change-and-women-in-agriculture.pdf

²³ TOMAK & RHTO. 2023. 'Disability Prevalence and Inclusion Report in Agriculture Sector from Baucau, Bobonaro and Viqueque municipalities'.

²⁴ UNDESA. 2019. 'UN Disability and Development Report - Realising the SDG by, for and with persons with disabilities'. <https://www.un.org/en/file/136140/download?token=UALlckRd>

²⁵ FAO. 2011. The state of food and agriculture. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3547e4eb-e763-44d1-88f6-8f573a361854/content>

Agroforestry systems can contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.²⁶ Women farmers often have highly specialised knowledge of forest diversity, management, and use, as well as conservation and restoration practices that support household food security. However, women remain economically disadvantaged in agroforestry and excluded from forest decision-making.²⁷

Example End of Program Outcomes and Intermediate Outcomes

1. **Agriculture policies, strategies, programs and legal frameworks** address climate change and gender equality, with sufficient resources for implementation.
2. **Agricultural programs and activities** are informed by climate and disaster risk assessments conducted in consultation with women with disabilities to identify and address disability-related risks.
3. Participating female headed households have increased income and assets through better access to climate resilient **agricultural services and markets**.
4. Participating female headed households have increased food security and nutrition through better access to climate resilient **agricultural resources and services**.
5. **Agricultural extension agents** support diverse women farmers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices.
6. Women farmers have increased influence and decision-making power within their household and farming collectives to **advance climate-smart agriculture practices**.
7. Women farmers' work burden is reduced as households adopt labour-saving **climate-smart agricultural inputs and technologies**.
8. Women farmers have increased household income and food security through **climate-smart livestock production practices**.
9. Women farmers have increased security of **land tenure and land usage rights** for climate-smart agriculture.
10. Women farmers have increased climate resilience through diversified **on-and off-farm sources of income**.
11. Women farmers apply new knowledge and skills in **conservation and sustainable forest management** techniques that mitigate soil erosion from changing rainfall patterns.
12. Women farmers have increased participation, decision-making and leadership for **community management and protection of natural resources and environments**, such as water, land, pasture, forest and marine resources.



²⁶ The Nature Conservancy. 2023. Farming with Trees: New Study Highlights the Potential of Agroforestry to Fight Climate Change. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/agroforestry-review-nature-climate-change/>

²⁷ FAO. Gender, forestry and agroforestry. <https://www.fao.org/gender/learning-center/thematic-areas/gender-and-forestry-and-agroforestry/2/>

Case study: Economic empowerment of women farmers through forest solutions in Vietnam²⁸

Enhancing women's leadership and economic opportunities in forestry can provide a stable income and build resilience. In northwest Vietnam, Arabica coffee has been intensively grown on sloping land leading to deforestation and soil erosion. The Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) program supported women farmers to adopt coffee-based agroforestry systems. Community-based savings and loans groups enabled investment in climate-resilient technologies, training in climate-resilient practices, and collective bargaining power. Women farmers increased the quality and quantity of their coffee production, doubled their household income, and strengthened household food security through co-cultivating fruit and timber trees that reduced the need for irrigation and sequestered carbon.

Case study: Video extension in Uganda

Climate information and agricultural extension services that consider the different ways in which women and men use and access information is critical for successful adoption of climate-resilient agriculture practices. In Uganda, women carry out most agricultural activities, but agricultural information is directed at men. The International Food Policy Research Institute aimed to accelerate the use of climate-resilient agricultural practices by reaching smallholder women farmers through video-based agricultural extension services which feature women farmers. After watching the extension videos featuring women farmers, women's uptake of climate-resilient agricultural practices increased to the same level or higher than men.

²⁸ Simelton E, Mulia R, Nguyen TT, Duong TM, Le HX, Tran LH, Halbherr L. 2021. Women's involvement in coffee agroforestry value-chains: Financial training, Village Savings and Loans Associations, and Decision power in Northwest Vietnam. CCAFS Working Paper no. 340. Wageningen, the Netherlands: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/227d2ce6-dcf6-4bce-bcf7-eb08a1a076c1/content>



Education

The impact of climate change and disasters on children, particularly girls, can be significant, potentially reversing the developmental gains in education and gender equality.²⁹ Climate related events are expected to prevent 12.5 million girls from completing education in low- and middle-income countries.³⁰

Climate change will have gendered impacts on school retention. In some situations, boys will be more likely to drop out to assist with reconstruction efforts³¹ or household livelihoods. In others, girls may drop out or reduce attendance to assist with household and caregiving tasks.³² This is likely to be harder for girls with disabilities as their education is often deprioritised due to discriminatory social norms and inaccessible learning environments. Harmful practices – such as child early and forced marriage of girls – may also increase.

When school infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, education is interrupted. The absence of functioning water and sanitation facilities impacts girls' attendance during menstruation. Damaged infrastructure also compromises the safety and independence of girls and children with disabilities to attend school. Girls' re-enrolment in school after climate-change related events is lower than boys.³³

Climate-related reductions in food supply may require parents to prioritise which children get more or better foods. Gendered social norms may see boys prioritised over girls and children with disabilities. This impacts their ability to learn and is exacerbated in puberty when nutritional needs for girls become higher.³⁴

The education system is vital to enable gender equitable green transitions by teaching students about climate change and skills for agriculture, renewable energy, green technology and community health. It also provides pathways for girls to prepare for future careers in male-dominated STEM sectors (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) that are key for climate change responses.

²⁹ Sims, K. (2021) Education, Girls' Education and Climate Change, K4D Emerging Issues Report 29. Institute of Development Studies, pp.2-4.

³⁰ Malala Fund. (2021). "A Greener, Fairer Future: Why Leaders Need to Invest in Climate and Girls' Education." Available [here](#)

³¹ Pankhurst, C. (2021). "What do we know about the links between girls' education and climate and environment change". Accountability for Gender Equality in Education. Available [here](#)

³² UNFCCC. Secretariat (2022) Dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women. Synthesis Report by the Secretariat. Available [here](#)

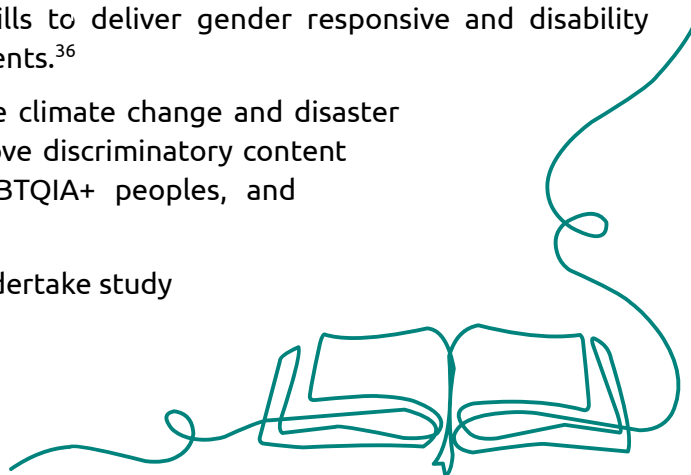
³³ https://plan-international.org/uploads/2023/11/Climate-Change-and-Girls-Education_TechReport_Nov2023.pdf

³⁴ WHO (2005) 'Gender, Climate Change and Health' Draft Discussion Paper, p11. Date accessed 22/03/24. <https://wrdd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Gender%2C%20Climate%20change%20and%20health%20risk.pdf>.

Quality secondary school education can help girls to build and protect social capital and understand, cope with, and respond to environmental stressors and climate change.³⁵

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. (National, sub-national and/or district) education departments develop and implement climate and disaster resilient, gender responsive and disability-inclusive **policies and strategic plans**.
2. **Education sector stakeholders have increased capacity** to deliver climate and disaster resilient, gender responsive and disability-inclusive policies and programs.
3. Girls and children with disabilities are engaged in **school learning environments** that are safe and climate and disaster resilient.
4. Policies and plans enable delivery of gender responsive and disability inclusive **education services** during climate-related disaster events.
5. **School infrastructure** is constructed to be sustainable and climate-resilient by embedding climate and disaster resilience criteria and universal design principles into designs and plans, to accommodate the needs of girls and children with disabilities.
6. Education centres have gender responsive and disability inclusive **disaster risk management plans** to respond to climate and disaster related events.
7. **Curriculum** developed for distance and remote area learning on gender responsive and disability inclusive climate change and disaster risk and resilience measures.
8. Schools/Universities/Vocational Training Institutions promote equitable and accessible pathways for girls and people with disabilities in **STEM subjects and occupations** linked to the green economy.
9. Teachers have the **technical knowledge and skills** to implement climate and disaster resilient, gender responsive and disability-inclusive education for children.
10. **Education response teams** have skills to deliver gender responsive and disability inclusive education during disaster events.³⁶
11. **School curricula** is revised to include climate change and disaster resilience learning modules and remove discriminatory content that marginalises women, girls, LGBTQIA+ peoples, and disabled communities.
12. Female **Australia Award scholars** undertake study to address growing demand and gaps in climate change and disaster management fields.



³⁵ Toya, Hideki & Skidmore, Mark, 2007. "Economic Development and the Impacts of Natural Disasters." Elsevier, 94(1), pp. 20-25.

³⁶ Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (2009) 'Education in Emergencies: Including Everyone – INEE Pocket guide to inclusive education'. Available at: <https://inee.org/resources/inee-pocket-guide-inclusive-education>



*Above: Workshop participants at Vanuatu Agriculture College build a solar food drier.
Source: Vanuatu Skills Partnership*

Case Study: Vanuatu Skills Partnership

The Vanuatu Skills Partnership improves access to skills and markets for economic prosperity. It integrates the cross-cutting issues of gender equality, disability and climate change resilience. Its [‘Better Balance Strategy’](#) promotes women’s participation in non-traditional trades relevant for addressing climate change. The program works with Vanuatu’s national OPD, the Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association to address barriers to participation. The program’s Climate Change Strategy mainstreams climate change adaption and mitigation strategies into all relevant training activities across the tourism, creative industry and agribusiness sectors.



Energy

Energy is a prominent source of global greenhouse gas emissions, making the renewable energy transition critical. Energy is a prerequisite for well-being and demand for energy is increasing. Lack of access to clean energy impacts economic opportunities, education, health, safety, and connectedness.

Clean energy can support adaptation and energy security and reduce the climate-induced vulnerability of women and girls. Access to cleaner energy would reduce women's and girls' exposure to air pollution from burning wood, charcoal and animal waste for cooking; reduce their workloads, free up girls time for learning; and reduce their risk of SGBV (for example, while collecting firewood) in unsafe spaces.³⁷ Access to energy is critical to reduce the gender gap in mobile phone and internet access in many countries, enabling access to information, essential services, education, and economic opportunities.³⁸

Access to energy is also critical for people with disabilities who require energy to charge assistive technologies (for example, mobile phone with assistive apps, hearing aids) which enable their participation in society.³⁹ Fuels such as biomass and coal are more likely to be used in households with people with disabilities due to their affordability.⁴⁰ Despite the energy needs of people with disabilities, their inclusion in the development and implementation of clean energy policies is limited.⁴¹

Energy policies can reinforce gender inequality. For example, fossil fuel production subsidies often benefit industries which are male-dominated. There is emerging evidence that large-scale solar and hydro energy projects are leading to land loss and displacement, threatening local and indigenous peoples' livelihoods (with disproportionate impacts for indigenous women).⁴² Clean energy policies need to be informed by indigenous and local women's voice and needs.

The rapid growth of the clean energy sector presents an opportunity to create a more gender-balanced workforce⁴³. Women represent only 6 per cent of ministerial positions responsible for national energy policies and programs⁴⁴. Independent, small and micro

³⁷ OECD, Gender and The Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/c7cbe91b-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/c7cbe91b-en#section-d1e18683>

³⁸ GSMA. 2023. Energy Challenges for Mobile Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa. https://www.gsma.com/solutions-and-impact/connectivity-for-good/external-affairs/gsma_resources/energy-challenges-ssa/

³⁹ UNDESA. 2019. 'UN Disability and Development Report - Realising the SDG by, for and with persons with disabilities'. <https://www.un.org/en/file/136140/download?token=UAlLckRd>

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² ASEAN, UN Women (2022) The State of Gender and Climate Change in ASEAN: Spotlight focus on renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and agriculture sectors p41 <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/State-of-Gender-Equality-and-Climate-Change-in-ASEAN-2.pdf>

⁴³ IRENA (2019) Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective <https://www.irena.org/publications/2019/Jan/Renewable-Energy-A-Gender-Perspective>

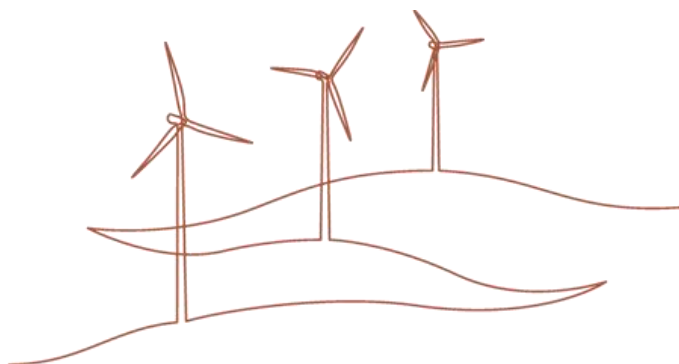
⁴⁴ UNDP, Energy and Gender Equality <https://www.undp.org/energy/our-work-areas/energy-and-gender-equality>

producers are contributing to the clean energy sector, particularly in rural and remote areas. However, women face barriers to entry including access to finance, technology and training. Women are critical in creating demand for clean energy products such as cookstoves and solar mills and dryers.

Household or community off grid systems can increase affordable energy access in rural and remote areas. In grid-based systems there are opportunities to improve access through gender responsive services, infrastructure and tariffs.

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Energy policy makers have increased access to **evidence of the gendered impacts of energy policy** and opportunities in the transition to clean energy.
2. National and sub-national **clean energy policy development processes** are informed by consultations with women's organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities and local and indigenous peoples, delivering more equitable energy policies and practices.
3. Women's employment in the **renewable energy workforce** increases, including in STEM and leadership roles.



4. Installation and connection subsidies increase **access to clean energy** for women-headed households and women-owned businesses.
5. Time spent by women on unpaid domestic work is reduced by increased **access to clean energy** and labour-saving technology.
6. Increased income and market share of women-owned **clean energy businesses**.
7. **Renewable energy associations** have gender balance in leadership and membership and include people with disabilities.
8. Climate-resilient **energy infrastructure upgrades** prioritise needs identified in consultation with women, people with disabilities, and marginalised communities.
9. Increased number of girls are utilise online learning platforms through **household renewable energy systems**.
10. Increased number of girls enrolled in and accessing digital platforms through **household renewable energy systems**.
11. Access to health clinics and hospitals by women is supported by clean energy systems and WASH.
12. Women report feeling safer in public spaces at night due to **solar-powered street lighting**.

13. Policy-makers and key stakeholders take into account the extra energy requirements and costs for people with disabilities, including women with disabilities, when **prioritising clean energy access**.

Case study: Solar Sister⁴⁵

Solar Sister is a social business investing in women's clean energy businesses in off grid communities in Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya since 2010. Women are provided with start-up kits, training and mentoring to help them set up and run businesses selling solar lights, home systems and clean cookstoves in their communities. 9,500 local women entrepreneurs have reached over four million people with clean energy products. The model improved women's household income, health and education as well as status and control over resources. By the end of 2022, Solar Sister estimates 1,100,800 metric tonnes of CO₂e emissions had been mitigated through clean energy provision.



Above: Suebat Arinola Folawiyo, a Solar Sister Entrepreneur in Nigeria. Source: Solar Sister

⁴⁵ <https://solarsister.org/>



Gender equality

More information can be found in [Part 1: What is the gender equality-climate change nexus?](#) and in other sectors. This section assumes that an investment has a 'principal objective' on gender equality and a 'secondary objective' on climate change.

Climate change is a 'threat multiplier', increasing the risks and prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) at home, while accessing resources, in disaster settings, conflicts and displacement. Women with disabilities and indigenous women face higher rates of SGBV and multiple layers of discrimination that enhance their vulnerability.

For women with disabilities, this risk increases during and after climate and disaster events, as they may have lost their assistive devices (e.g. mobility aids or communication devices) which increases their dependence on others, and risk of experiencing violence.⁴⁶ Physical and communication barriers also prevent women with disabilities from accessing SGBV services.⁴⁷ Under-reporting of abuse and dissuading women with disabilities from seeking justice make them invisible to policy-makers and service providers, further increasing their risk of violence.⁴⁸

Preventing SGBV ensures women, including women environmental defenders, are able to participate in and drive climate action free from the threat of violence. Addressing SGBV – including through response capacity – must be part of actions to prepare for and respond to disasters, adapt and build resilience, and mitigate climate impacts.⁴⁹

Methods to challenge and change social norms and behaviours can advance gender equality and drive climate action. From the grassroots to international institutions, efforts to advance and uphold norms on human rights and environmental sustainability and translate these norms into policy are critical to both agendas.

Integrating climate change into the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda requires recognition of the peace and security impacts of climate change. Women have a critical leadership role in addressing the climate-security nexus, including in peace processes and conflict prevention. WPS National Action Plans can support women's leadership in climate action. However, only about one in four WPS National Action Plans make a direct reference to climate.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 2018. 'General Recommendation No. 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate Change' <https://www.undocs.org/en/CEDAW/C/GC/37>

⁴⁷ UNFPA. 2015. 'Shelter from the Storm: A transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world' https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/State_of_World_Population_2015_EN.pdf

⁴⁸ Vaughan, C., Devine, A., Ignacio, R., Lacsamana, W., Marco, M.J., Zayas, J., & Sobritchea, C. (2016). Building capacity for a disability-inclusive response to violence against women and girls: Experiences from the W-DARE project in the Philippines. *Gender & Development*, 24(2), 245-260. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2016.1194031>

⁴⁹ Castaneda Carney, L Sabater, C Owren, AE Boyer, J Wren. 2020. Gender-based violence and environmental linkages. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/publication/gender-based-violence-and-environment-linkages>

⁵⁰ GIWPS. 2022. What Does Climate Change Have to Do With Women, Peace, and Security? A Lot. <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/what-does-climate-change-have-to-do-with-women-peace-and-security/>

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Diverse women exercise **formal and informal climate leadership** at community, national or international levels.
2. **SGBV prevention programming** addresses the impact of climate change on SGBV risk factors, including inequitable gender norms.
3. Women have equal access to **employment opportunities** generated by carbon transition and adaptation policies.
4. **Women-led entrepreneurship** strengthens adaptation and the carbon transition through increased innovation and reduced risk.
5. Women-led organisations and networks, including organisations of women with disabilities, have strengthened **skills to influence climate and disaster policy**.
6. Legislation, planning and budgeting enables **SGBV response services** that are resilient to climate and disaster related risks.
7. **Climate and disaster policy frameworks** ensure comprehensive, accessible and safe SGBV services for survivors affected by climate and disaster related emergencies.
8. **Impact investment in women-led enterprises** is increasingly directed to key carbon transition and adaptation sectors.
9. Women and people with disabilities equitably access and participate in **education and skills training** in climate-resilient (sub)sectors.
10. Local **women's peace and security leaders are funded** to advocate for climate change-related priorities and develop local solutions for climate-related security risks.
11. **WPS National Action Plans** recognise climate change as a human security issue and commit to concrete climate-related actions.



Case Study: Pacific Islands Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice (PIFA4CJ)⁵¹

Made up of seven self-led feminist organisations, drawing in experience from youth movements, disability rights movements, LGBTQIA+ movements, and disaster preparedness and response work, PIFA4CJ leads a grant-making program to resource and connect feminist climate action across the region. PIFA4CJ grants protect watersheds, document women's traditional and ancestral knowledge, establish community planning mechanisms for climate emergencies, and build the capacity of feminist organisations to respond to community needs in the face of increasing climate impacts.

⁵¹ Global Fund for Women. <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/movements/climate-justice-in-pacific/>



Governance

Climate change poses severe stress to governance⁵² systems and institutions.⁵³ Governance institutions' capacity to design and deliver programs can be weakened if they are constantly responding to climate emergencies, especially in developing countries where national crises often absorb the state's resources and time. However, climate change responses offer opportunities for greater civic engagement which contributes positively to better functioning institutions.

The importance of gender to governance has long been recognised.⁵⁴ The increased participation of women and marginalised groups in decision-making, planning, and design contributes to development outcomes. Gender equality has been linked to 'good' governance as both a cause and an effect; increased gender equality and participation of women improves institutional effectiveness, and better functioning institutions can increase gender equality.⁵⁵

Increasing women's participation within governments positively influences effective governance and climate policies.⁵⁶ Women's participation in governance can increase transparency and accountability, and mitigate corruption.⁵⁷ This includes the growing risk of corruption in climate finance. Governance programs have helped strengthen the law and justice sector to respond to gender and climate justice issues.⁵⁸

Better management of budgets enables governments to achieve more equitable and climate responsive outcomes. Economic policies and programs that respond to the different needs of women and marginalised groups increase government responsiveness.⁵⁹ The integration of gender equality and social inclusion in climate analysis, for example, improves understanding of the needs and experiences of women and other marginalised groups.⁶⁰

People with disabilities have rarely been included in the development, implementation, and monitoring of climate change policies and programs. People with disabilities and OPDs are

⁵² This chapter uses the term 'governance' to refer to political, government, legal and economic institutions that organise society and decision-making at global, national and local levels for development.

⁵³ D Lindvall, 'Democracy and the challenge of climate change', *International IDEA Discussion Paper 3/2021*.

⁵⁴ 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', The Fourth World Conference on Women, September 1995.

⁵⁵ A Brody, 'Gender and Governance: Overview report', BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, 2009.

⁵⁶ UNFCCC, 'Implementation of gender-responsive climate action in the context of sustainable development'.

⁵⁷ J Carlo, O Carranceja, 'The role of women's empowerment in anti-corruption', APEC Policy Support Unit, Policy Brief No 39, March 2021.

⁵⁸ See for example: DFAT, 'Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 2 Mid-term review', 2019 at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/australia-indonesia-partnership-justice-phase-2-independent-review.pdf>; Transparency International, Climate Governance Integrity Program: [Climate & Corruption Case Atlas - Transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org/en/climate-governance-integrity-program).

⁵⁹ UN Women, 'Why macroeconomic policy matters for gender equality', 2015.

⁶⁰ UNFCCC, 'Implementation of gender-responsive climate action in the context of sustainable development', Expert Group Meeting Report, 2016: https://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/eqmreport.pdf.

rarely approached to discuss disability inclusion related to climate governance,⁶¹ meaning that their specific needs and concerns are often not represented or included.

Support for women's organisations and OPDs can increase government responsiveness. For example, women's groups have been successful in influencing more responsive government services at subnational levels and have been critical partners in responding to climate change and building resilience to natural disasters.⁶²

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. **Formal governance institutions** that have climate change and disaster related decision-making functions have more women in senior roles.
2. **Government policies and programs** integrate actions to address climate change that are informed by different perspectives, rights, needs and priorities of women and marginalised groups.
3. Women's organisations and movements influence **formal and informal climate and disaster governance structures and mechanisms**.
4. **National, sub-national and/or local government** use gender responsive budgeting and climate tagging to improve the accountability of policy implementation and programs.
5. **Climate finance** that prioritises the needs of women and people with disabilities, is secured for strengthening central and subnational climate change and DRR related institutions.



6. Governance programmes relating to **elections and parliamentary governance** have a stronger focus on gender equality and climate and disaster risk reduction.
7. **Climate and disaster policies, plans and programs** integrate the different perspectives, rights, needs and priorities of women and people with disabilities.
8. Women, people with disabilities and gender diverse people lead, participate in, and influence **formal and informal climate and disaster governance structures and mechanisms**.

⁶¹ CBM Global. 2022. 'Climate Change: This Century's Defining Issue. The 4 Ps for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities within Climate Change Plans' <https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CBM-Global-Climate-Change-Report.pdf>

⁶² See for example: DFAT, 'MAMPU Phase 2 Independent Strategic Review', 2019 at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/indonesia-partnership-gender-equality-womens-empowerment-mampu-phase-2-ind-strat-review.pdf>; Global Fund for Women, 'Feminist action for climate justice in the Pacific' at <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/movements/climate-justice-in-pacific/>.

9. Women's rights organisations and organisations of people with disabilities influence **formal and informal climate and disaster governance structures and mechanisms**.
10. National, sub-national and/or local government decision-makers use **gender responsive budgeting and climate tagging** to improve the accountability of climate policy implementation and programs.
11. Women's rights organisations and organisations of people with disabilities successfully access **climate financing** for advocacy and programming.



Above: Women farmers who participate in an agricultural self-help group in Memo, Timor-Leste. Source: UN Women/Betsy Davis Cosme/Flickr/ CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Case study: Gender responsive budgeting for gender-inclusive and climate-resilient agriculture in Timor-Leste

Gender responsive budgeting is a key tool in monitoring how public budgets support the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of women. Since 2010, the Government of Timor-Leste has used gender responsive budgeting, and the women's network – Rede Feto – advocates with Government for resources for gender equality. Climate change is set to alter rainfall patterns and increase growing season temperatures, putting Timor-Leste's agricultural production at risk. Rede Feto has advocated for Government resource allocation to ensure women farmers have access to agricultural extension programs, climate-resilient agricultural trainings and technology subsidies to support adaptation. As a result, several municipal-level budgets have included allocations targeting women farmers.



Health

Gender and social inequalities create health inequities, and climate change further impacts health. Key health risks from climate change include injury from extreme weather, heat-related illnesses and mortality, increases in outbreaks of vector-borne diseases and increases in water- and food-borne communicable diseases. Climate change is negatively impacting food and water security. It also increases risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases and affects mental health.⁶³

Women, men, and gender diverse people's health is affected differently by climate change. For example, women may be more vulnerable to malnutrition in times of food scarcity due to gendered expectations that women eat last. In contrast, the expectations on men as family breadwinners can contribute to poor mental health and high suicide rates amongst male farmers during drought. During extreme heat, women – particularly pregnant women – are at greater risk of health complications and mortality.⁶⁴

Climate-induced disasters directly disrupt access to essential health services, with the impacts felt differently for different groups of people. For example, women and girls may lack access to sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health services, older persons may lack access to essential medicines, and people with disabilities may lack access to support services, rehabilitation and assistive technologies.⁶⁵ As climate change exacerbates existing health inequalities, it also creates indirect disproportionate effects on people with disabilities due to inaccessible healthcare services and facilities.⁶⁶

Climate-related health challenges will increase demand for paid and unpaid care.⁶⁷ This care burden will be primarily borne by women and girls, reducing their available time for activities such as education and income generation, and ability to care for their own physical and mental health and wellbeing. Lack of representation of diverse women in health sector decision making roles means that decisions made about health are less likely to represent the needs and experiences of diverse groups within a population.

⁶³ WHO. 2023. Climate Change and Health. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

⁶⁴ WHO. 2014. Gender, Climate Change and Health. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241508186>; Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2023. Strengthening Women's Resilience to Heat Stress in Asia and the Pacific: Technical Assistance Report. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/reg-57051-001-tar>

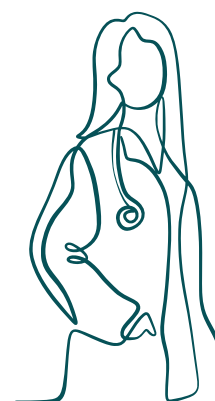
⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Stein, P. & Stein, M. 2021. Climate change and the right to health of people with disabilities. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(21\)00542-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(21)00542-8/fulltext)

⁶⁷ Arrow & UN Women. 2021. Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change Resilience. [https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field Office ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2021/06/Empower Training ManualGCCR.pdf](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2021/06/Empower%20Training%20ManualGCCR.pdf)

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Human, environmental and animal **health policy** frameworks⁶⁸ address climate change risk and resilience, including how gender and social vulnerability affect climate and health risk.
2. **Health policies** are informed by improved availability of evidence on the health impacts of climate change⁶⁹ and the gendered and social vulnerability to these health impacts.
3. **National Climate Change Adaptation Plans** consider gender and social vulnerability to the health impacts of climate change.
4. **National and subnational assessments** of vulnerability to the health risks of climate change account for gender and social vulnerability.
5. Health Emergency and **Disaster Risk Management Plans** include approaches that are gender-responsive and consider vulnerable populations most at risk from climate related hazards.
6. **Health responses** are informed by integrated environment, climate and health surveillance, disaggregated by age, sex and disability.
7. **Health procurement policy and planning** incorporate actions to address the health risks of climate change and disasters and gendered health needs to ensure availability of appropriate health commodities, including sexual and reproductive health commodities, during times of disaster.
8. **Health infrastructure** is gender-sensitive, accessible and resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters.
9. **Health service delivery** is informed by understanding and planning for the different exposure pathways from climate and disaster related hazards, and targeted to those most at-risk, considering gender differences and diverse vulnerability factors.
10. **Public health programs** are targeted to address climate change and focus on those most at-risk of health impacts from climate change, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, newborns and children, older people and people with disabilities.
11. **Capacity development programs** support women's groups and organisations of people with disabilities to engage in community-based surveillance of and response to disease risk and climate events.
12. Mechanisms are in place to ensure **information related to health risks** from extreme weather events and climate change stresses reaches at-risk communities, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, socially isolated older populations, people with disabilities and migrant populations.



⁶⁸ WHO. 2023. Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240081888>

⁶⁹ See for example, <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/climate-change-and-health/evidence-monitoring/country-profiles>

13. **Health promotion and communications strategies** are co-designed with diverse community members and accessibility and acceptability is pre-tested to support uptake in times of climate-related disaster.



*Above: Participants in a focus group discussion with a women's group in Sarlahi district, Nepal.
Source: Water for Women*

Case study: Water for Women Nepal

An important aspect of climate-resilient health programming is that climate-risks must be communicated and shared in accessible formats within at-risk communities. Through the Water for Women program, SNV and the Sarlahi Municipality of Nepal allocated a specific budget for menstrual health and hygiene for women with disabilities. This included the provision of behaviour change communications and information materials in a range of formats, including Easy Read, to accommodate for people with different disabilities. The provision of accessible information-sharing in Nepal also had wider community effects, enabling people with low literacy to participate.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Water for Women. 2022. Shifting Social Norms for Transformative WASH: Review of Concepts, Literature and Practice. <https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/news/towards-transformation-shifting-social-norms-for-transformative-wash.aspx>



Humanitarian

The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis.⁷¹ Climate-related disasters, such as floods, heat waves, drought, and tsunamis, increased by 2.5 times between the 1980s and 2022.⁷² People caught in humanitarian emergencies are among those most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the climate crisis. Compared to men, women and children are over 14 times more likely to be killed by climate-disasters,⁷³ and people with disabilities are up to four times more likely to die during a disaster.⁷⁴

Social norms and power imbalances make women and girls more exposed to disaster risk, less able to mitigate, adapt, and prepare for those risks, less able to act when disaster strikes, and less able to access humanitarian assistance.⁷⁵ Women-headed households are less likely to hold productive assets, including land and documentation, that support disaster recovery.⁷⁶ Women and girls comprise the majority of populations displaced by climate change,⁷⁷ often pushing them into overcrowded camps or informal settlements (which may still be vulnerable to climate hazards).⁷⁸ In these settings, gender inequalities are amplified; women are at greater risk of sexual and gender-based violence, more likely to die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth and pregnant women are the most impacted by climate-driven food insecurity and malnutrition.⁷⁹ Climate crises are driving families to adopt harmful coping mechanisms, including child marriage.⁸⁰

The LGBTQIA+ community experiences higher rates of homelessness, poverty, and mental health issues than the general population, which are exacerbated during a disaster situation.⁸¹

⁷¹ UNOCHA. *Climate Change*. <https://www.unocha.org/climate-change>

⁷² Global Humanitarian Overview 2024. <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/spiraling-climate-crisis-intensifying-needs-and-vulnerabilities#page-title>

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ Fujii, K. (2012). The Great East Japan Earthquake and Disabled Persons, in Disability Information Resources, Japan.

⁷⁵ CARE. 2020. Evicted by climate change: confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement. <https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

⁷⁶ FAO. 2024. The unjust climate – Measuring the impacts of climate change on rural poor, women and youth. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9680en>

⁷⁷ UNICEF. 2023. Climate Change's greatest victims are women and girls.

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/blog/climate-changes-greatest-victims-are-women-and-girls>

⁷⁸ UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/climate-change-and-displacement>

⁷⁹ Global Humanitarian Overview 2024. <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/spiraling-climate-crisis-intensifying-needs-and-vulnerabilities#page-title>

⁸⁰ UN Women. 2023. Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action.

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Feminist-climate-justice-A-framework-for-action-en.pdf>

⁸¹ Blanchard, K. 2023. The importance of considering gender and sexual minorities in emergency management. <https://www.drrdynamics.com/publications>

Women and girls with disabilities experience heightened risks on account of both their gender and disability, including higher rates of SGBV.⁸² Women and gender diverse people with disabilities face additional challenges during climate-induced displacement due to physical accessibility barriers, reduced support from family members, discriminatory migration laws⁸³ and inaccessible information, plans and evacuation procedures.⁸⁴ Social norms impact the mobility of women with disabilities who may be left behind during evacuations, rather than be assisted by a male non-family member, or it may be socially unacceptable for a woman with disability to move to locations where male non-family members also reside.⁸⁵ The exclusion of people with disabilities is further exacerbated by the delivery of humanitarian assistance that often does not consider their needs.⁸⁶

Climate change and gender inequality are often deprioritised in short-term humanitarian action. Within the cluster system, through which humanitarian partners coordinate, gender is often seen as a protection issue and climate and environment issues do not always have a clear 'owner'. Women's active participation in the design and delivery of humanitarian action can shift power dynamics in the humanitarian system and improve access to assistance.

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Key **humanitarian governance and coordination** structures include climate, gender and disability accountabilities outside the protection cluster.
2. Humanitarian partners use sex, age, and disability disaggregated **data and evidence** about climatic patterns, hazards, and their impacts to inform Needs Assessments and Response Plans.
3. National and subnational **disaster/emergency management policy** integrates climate adaptation and mitigation actions, and is informed by women, youth, and people with disabilities.
4. Women, girls and people with disabilities, have access to appropriate **information, technology and early warning systems** that enable them to safely respond to climate-related disasters.
5. Multipurpose **cash transfers** improve the capacity of women-headed households and households of people with disabilities to anticipate climate risks and absorb shocks and stresses.

⁸² CBM Global. 2022. Our Lessons: disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction report <https://www.cbm.org.au/resource/our-lessons-disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction-report>; CBM Australia and Edge Effect. 2020. Out of the Margins: An intersectional analysis of disability and diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, expression & sex characteristics in humanitarian and development contexts. <https://www.edgeeffect.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Out-of-the-Margins-Full-Report-June-2020-FINAL.pdf>

⁸³ Pacific Disability Forum. 2022. 'Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific'. <https://pacificdisability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PDF-Final-Report-on-Climate-Change-and-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf>

⁸⁴ Smith, F, Jolley, E, & Schmidt, E. 2012. 'Disability and disasters: The importance of an inclusive approach to vulnerability and social capital' https://www.sistemaprotezionecivile.it/allegati/1476_Disability_and_disasters.pdf

⁸⁵ Sightsavers. 2015. 'Disability, disasters and empowerment'. <https://www.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Sightsavers-disability-disasters-and-empowerment.pdf>

⁸⁶ Chand, O et al. 2023. Key Considerations: Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Emergency Response in South and Southeast Asia and Beyond. <https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/resources/key-considerations-disability-inclusive-humanitarian-action-and-emergency-response-in-south-and-southeast-asia-and-beyond/>

6. Women climate refugees and those with disabilities actively participate in the design, delivery and evaluation of **livelihood programs** that aim to strengthen their resilience to climate shocks.
7. **Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction efforts** increase the number of households able to avoid forced displacement, and enable safer displacement and returns for marginalised individuals, particularly women and girls.
8. The gender and disability gap in **mortality and morbidity** from climate-related disasters is reduced.
9. Women meaningfully participate in **peace processes** to resolve land and natural resource management disputes fuelled by climate change.
10. The proportion of **humanitarian funding** for gender-responsive and climate-informed food security interventions triples.
11. Climate resilient **humanitarian storage and distribution systems, warehousing and cold chains** are strengthened to support rapid response by women leaders, churches, CSOs.



Above: Women and men volunteers worked together to build and grow vegetation on slope stabilisers in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Source: Australian Humanitarian Partnership

Case study: Preparedness in Rohingya refugee camps

More than 900,000 Rohingya refugees reside in makeshift structures in densely populated camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of storms and the area is very exposed to cyclones. Rohingya women have low literacy and face cultural barriers to participating in disaster preparedness, accessing risk information and receiving early warnings. A volunteer program in the camps has been adapted to engage women as volunteers to increase the reach of preparedness messaging to other Rohingya women. Women volunteers receive the same training and have the same duties as male volunteers but are also responsible for supporting other women in the camps to understand early warning systems and prepare for disasters.



Infrastructure

Infrastructure is estimated to be responsible for 79 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and 88 per cent of adaptation costs⁸⁷ making it a driver of climate risks and critical for climate adaptation and just transitions. Climate change can cause infrastructure damage and failure, negatively impacting communities, economies and livelihoods.

Women and men do not benefit equally from infrastructure due to their social roles, economic status and needs. Men dominate infrastructure decision-making, even in projects targeted at female end-users, undermining potential gender equality, disability, and social inclusion outcomes.⁸⁸

Failure to account for gendered differences and climate and disaster risks when designing infrastructure can result in asset failure, community displacement, loss of essential services, reduced productivity, and decrease the lifespan or return on investment.⁸⁹ For example, although women are more likely to use public transport than men,⁹⁰ the design of transport infrastructure can exacerbate the risk of gender-based violence, reducing uptake by women, girls, and gender diverse people, undermining the climate change mitigation benefits of public transport. Infrastructure is often designed and constructed without considering accessibility of people with disabilities, introducing new barriers, excluding many people with disabilities from infrastructure and services and increasing their exposure to climate risk.⁹¹

The transition to low-emission and climate neutral economies presents an opportunity to improve infrastructure accessibility and inclusiveness by embedding universal design.⁹² Universal design maximises the accessibility and usability of infrastructure, leading to better development outcomes.⁹³ Resilient infrastructure policy and planning should go beyond risk and safeguarding, to enable the meaningful participation of women and marginalised groups, such as people with disabilities, across the infrastructure life cycle, particularly through representative groups. Infrastructure procurement supply chains can benefit local

⁸⁷ UNOPS. 2023. Decarbonizing buildings is vital to climate action. <https://www.unops.org/news-and-stories/insights/decarbonizing-buildings-is-vital-to-climate-action>.

⁸⁸ OECD. 2021. Women in Infrastructure - Selected Stocktaking of good practices for inclusion of women in infrastructure. <https://www.oecd.org/gov/infrastructure-governance/gender-in-infrastructure/>

⁸⁹ ADB. 2023. Enhancing gender equality in infrastructure development theories of change, indicators, and sector strategies. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/934986/gender-equality-infrastructure-development.pdf>

⁹⁰ OECD, Gender and The Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/c7cbe91b-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/c7cbe91b-en#section-d1e18683>

⁹¹ UNOPS. 2022. Inclusive Infrastructure for Climate Action. <https://www.unops.org/inclusive-infrastructure-for-climate-action>

⁹² Secretariat of the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network. 2021. Promoting Disability-Inclusive Climate Change Action. https://gladnetwork.net/sites/default/files/DICAGW_Accessible_06162021.pdf

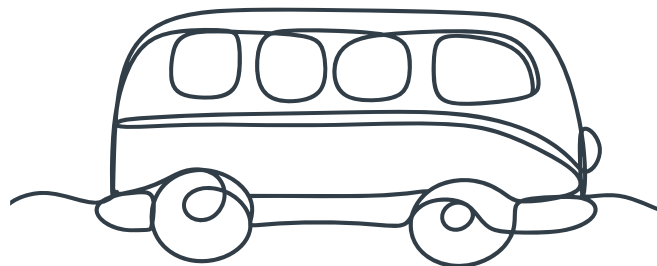
⁹³ DFAT. 2013. Accessibility Design Guide: Universal design principles for Australia's aid program. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/accessibility-design-guide-universal-design-principles-for-australia-s-aid-program>

women-led suppliers by requiring contractors to adopt sustainable and gender equitable construction practices.

Planning for quality maintenance for the full working life of an asset can reduce climate change impacts by extending the life cycle and strengthening climate resilience. It can also enhance gender equality outcomes, for example by creating employment opportunities for women and ensuring gender equitable participation in asset management.

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Local women benefit equally from **employment** in the construction, operations and maintenance of climate resilient infrastructure through training, equal pay, and safe working conditions.
2. Local small- and medium-enterprises engage in the construction, operations and maintenance of climate resilient infrastructure through **local supply chains and local tender opportunities**, creating jobs for women.
3. Infrastructure is **constructed to be sustainable, accessible and climate and disaster resilient** by embedding universal design principles and incorporating climate and disaster risks and design criteria into designs and plans.



4. **Procurement** processes for climate resilient infrastructure projects enable women-owned and operated businesses to equitably compete.
5. **Resettled households** are less vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, and women have been supported to access compensation and secure property rights.
6. Consultations including women-led organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities inform the economic, social and environmental implications, and climate and disaster risks of projects as part of **pre-feasibility and feasibility studies**.
7. **Policy, regulatory and governance frameworks**, including design, construction, maintenance and accessibility standards, drive gender equality and climate and disaster resilience in infrastructure development.
8. **Infrastructure priorities** are informed by gender equality, disability equity, and social inclusion analysis and climate and disaster risk and vulnerability assessments.
9. Increased accessibility, affordability, efficiency and reliability of climate-resilient **transport options** for women, including women with disabilities.

10. Infrastructure sector stakeholders have the **technical capacity** to integrate climate, disaster, gender equality, disability equity, and social inclusion in infrastructure policy and planning.
11. **Business cases** for projects consider benefits, costs and risks related to gender and social inclusion, climate and disaster resilience and low carbon emissions.

Case study: Strengthening Sustainable Urban Transport for Hanoi Metro Line 3

The project will contribute to Hanoi's efforts to mitigate climate change through low-carbon transport. Planning is informed by analysis of gendered transport patterns and need. Design includes disability and gender-responsive features like priority seating, handrails, waiting areas, adequate lighting and CCTV. The project also includes job creation targets for women, both in civil works and services and unskilled jobs. These measures will benefit women through employment in Vietnam's carbon transition while increasing public transport usage, lowering emissions.



Above: Hanoi Metro Line 3 passing over Xuan Thuy Road. Source: Wikimedia/CC BY 4.0



Social protection

Social protection is critical for addressing the gender-climate nexus. Social protection can reduce vulnerability to climate change, respond to climate shocks, offset negative impacts of climate transition policies, support climate adaptation, and promote emissions reduction.⁹⁴ Social protection can strengthen climate and disaster resilience during disasters and slow onset climate impacts. As a result, climate change and disaster impacts are being considered in some social protection schemes.

Climate change will affect the scale, type, duration and geographic distribution of social protection needs. These needs are gendered, as women are impacted differently by climate change and require different social protection responses. Excluding women from social protection reduces their resilience to climate impacts. Participation by diverse women (including women with disabilities) in the design and implementation of social protection is essential but remains limited.

Social protection eligibility is sometimes tied to place of residence, which can limit women's ability to migrate as a climate adaptation strategy. Poor women and those with disabilities are overrepresented in informal employment, making them less likely to be covered by social protection schemes (such as social insurance for employees) and more exposed to climate risks. Social protection can facilitate women's employment in green economy sectors like renewable energy (e.g. through connecting them to vocational training, or active labour market interventions for people who are unemployed or at risk of job loss). Cash payments through safe spaces for women can improve well-being.

Women with disabilities are more likely to be impacted when climate and disaster risk financing and insurance schemes do not consider the additional costs related to having a disability⁹⁵ (e.g. repairs to assistive devices after disasters or additional water/medical supplies to maintain adequate hygiene). Eligibility for disability pensions should be based on functional assessment rather than ability to work, to support women with disabilities to participate in climate-resilient employment.

Climate and disaster finance can support expansion of gender-equitable social protection. Anticipatory actions, such as shock-resistant social protection and forecast-based financing, can effectively support communities, women and people with disabilities before a climate-induced disaster.⁹⁶ Parametric insurance provides payouts based on a trigger (e.g. wind

⁹⁴ See also DFAT's Rethinking Social Protection and Climate Change - Implications of climate change for social protection policy and programming in the Asia-Pacific region, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/rethinking-social-protection-and-climate-change-implications-climate-change-social-protection-policy-and-programming-asia-pacific-region>

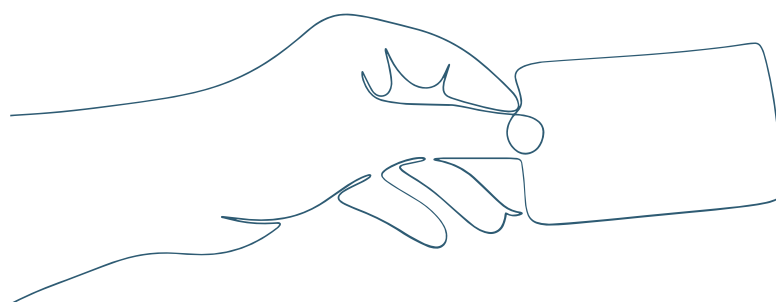
⁹⁵ Mitra, S. et. al. 2017. Extra costs of living with a disability: A review and agenda for research. *Disability and Health Journal*, Volume 10, Issue 4, 475 – 484. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28501322/>

⁹⁶ WFP. 2024. Inclusive Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness and Response Practice Guide. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/inclusive-participation-persons-disabilities-emergency-preparedness-and-response>

speed) to cover potential losses. It provides a quick injection of relief funds prior to and immediately following a disaster for household and community planning.

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Social protection systems contribute to increased climate and disaster **resilience**⁹⁷ for women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities.
2. Government increases **investment** in gender transformative, climate resilient social protection policies and programs.
3. Social protection programs and instruments integrate climate and disaster risk **analysis** and gender equality, disability, and social inclusion analysis.
4. **Government Agencies and Policies** for gender equality, social protection, climate change and disaster management are integrated and aligned.
5. The design of social protection policies and programs in response to emerging climate risks is informed by the **meaningful participation** of women, people with disabilities and their representative groups.
6. Social protection **targeting mechanisms** reach women affected by climate change.



7. Predictable, adequate, regular and context-appropriate **cash or in-kind transfers** enable women to adapt to climate stressors and shocks.
8. Climate-resilient **public works programmes** address women's productive time burden, ensuring benefits are equitably distributed.
9. Social protection stakeholders have the **knowledge and skills** to integrate gender equality and climate and disaster resilience into social protection.
10. Increased proportion of **climate fund projects** focusing on gender-responsive social protection.
11. The female labour force participation rate increased due to targeted **training** and re-skilling women for the 'green economy'.
12. **Climate and disaster risk financing and insurance schemes** consider the additional costs related to having a disability.
13. **Shock-resistant social protection schemes** support women with disabilities before a climate-induced disaster occurs.

⁹⁷ Resilience must be defined and measurable

Case study: Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender Equality (SPRING)

Australia's Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender Equality (SPRING) program in the Philippines will strengthen human development through supporting social protection, advancing gender equality, and cooperation on disability and Indigenous equity and inclusion. SPRING will strengthen national policies and discourse on social protection to reduce poverty and ensure that people can access support when they need it. These reforms will look for opportunities to integrate climate change and disaster vulnerability data into the social protection system and respond to gendered needs relating to teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence, including through strengthened budgeting systems and through social protection mechanisms. SPRING includes pillars of work on gender equality and inclusion for people with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, aiming to improve the Government's systems for identifying people with disabilities, leading to better access to social welfare benefits and support. It also intends to improve the participation of Indigenous Peoples – especially women leaders – in local decision-making around social services.



Above: Women who work in the informal economy in the Philippines often miss out on maternity protections. Source: E. Tuyay/ILO/Flickr/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Water Resource Management and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Climate change will exacerbate water scarcity, particularly affecting women. By 2050, it is projected that 674 million women and girls will live in highly water stressed countries.⁹⁸ Climate induced water scarcity leads to women and girls travelling farther distances to find water. This increases their risk of exposure to sexual and gender-based violence, their household labour burden, and reduces their time for activities such as education and work. Female farmers often have less access to water for agriculture than men due to disparities in land rights and negotiation capacity.⁹⁹

Climate change threatens people's rights to water and sanitation. It affects water quality and increases risk of disease and illness as households resort to unsafe water sources.¹⁰⁰ Women's exposure to illness is particularly acute for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and family illness increases women's workloads as primary carers of sick family members. Menstrual hygiene management is more difficult in situations of water scarcity,¹⁰¹ exacerbated for those with disabilities due to inaccessible water and sanitation facilities.¹⁰²

Climate-related water scarcity increases the cost of water and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.¹⁰³ Marginalised women and low-income households lack funds for water and menstrual hygiene products.¹⁰⁴ Opportunities in WASH infrastructure, policy and programming should support climate mitigation and adaptation and ensure the availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability, and quality of water and sanitation for all.¹⁰⁵

Women's knowledge – particularly that of Indigenous women – is essential to achieving resilient water and food security. Women's involvement in water resource management can achieve better economic and environmental benefits.¹⁰⁶ However, their knowledge is underutilised in decisions about water resource management and climate change. Only 22

⁹⁸ Laura Turquet, Constanza Tabbush, Silke Staab, Loui Williams and Brianna Howell. 2023. "Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action". *Conceptual framework prepared for Progress of the World's Women series*. New York: UN-Women. P. 7. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Feminist-climate-justice-A-framework-for-action-en.pdf>

⁹⁹ FAO. 2023. *The status of women in agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

¹⁰⁰ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (no date). *Position Paper: Climate Change and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*

¹⁰¹ WHO, 2023. <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-07-2023-women-and-girls-bear-brunt-of-water-and-sanitation-crisis---new-unicef-who-report>

¹⁰² Pacific Disability Forum. 2022. *Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific*. <https://pacificdisability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PDF-Final-Report-on-Climate-Change-and-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf>

¹⁰³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (no date). *Position Paper: Climate Change and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation- Mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation*

¹⁰⁴ WHO, 2023. <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-07-2023-women-and-girls-bear-brunt-of-water-and-sanitation-crisis---new-unicef-who-report>

¹⁰⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (no date). *Position Paper: Climate Change and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*

¹⁰⁶ UNEP, Women remain underrepresented in water resources management. <https://unepdhi.org/new-report-women-remain-underrepresented-in-water-resources-management/>

percent of countries have women formally represented or regularly consulted in high-level water resources management.¹⁰⁷ People with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, experience stigma and discrimination that prevents them from participating in and influencing WASH governance processes to better meet their needs.¹⁰⁸

Example End of Program and Intermediate Outcomes

1. **WASH infrastructure** uses climate and disaster risk information and design criteria, and universal design principles, to ensure it is accessible, resilient to climate impacts and addresses the needs of women, girls, and people with disabilities.
2. **Distribution of water resources and services** is gender-equitable and accessible and accounts for the future impact of climate change on women's access to water.
3. Women hold an increased share of **senior and technical positions** in the climate data and water resource management sectors.
4. **Water resource management-related policies** support women to access appropriate low-cost techniques and technologies for climate change adaptation.
5. Girls' attendance at school is improved by **climate resilient WASH services**.
6. Male participants in climate-informed **WASH behaviour change education** demonstrate more gender equitable attitudes in household water-use.
7. Women in drought-affected areas have an increased role in water-related **household decision-making and spending**.
8. **Environmental and social impact assessments** for WASH infrastructure include climate change projections, disaster risk information and planning for the safety and health of women and girls.
9. Women report fewer instances of SGBV during water collection following the installation of **household rainwater systems** to support climate adaptation.
10. Gender diverse peoples have improved **access to climate resilient public water and sanitation services** free from discrimination and harassment.
11. Women occupy leadership roles in **water user and management committees** which are inclusive of people with disabilities and in decision making processes for addressing climate and disaster risks.
12. **Water Resource Management Policies** and budgets are informed by climate projections, disaster risks and gender equality, disability, and social inclusion analysis.



¹⁰⁷ FAO. 2023. The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

¹⁰⁸ Scherer, Nathaniel et al. 2021. The Inclusion of Rights of People with Disabilities and Women and Girls in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Policy Documents and Programs of Bangladesh and Cambodia. International Journal of Environmental Research And Public Health vol. 18,10 5087. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8151976/#B10-ijerph-18-05087>

Case study: Inclusive climate-resilient WASH in PNG

In PNG, WaterAid has been supporting governments to collaborate with women's organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities in decision-making forums. As a result, the East Sepik Council of Women and the East Sepik Disabled People's Association now have permanent roles on the District WASH Committee, where they advise on making climate-resilient WASH services and programs inclusive.¹⁰⁹ As a result, women and people with disabilities benefit from sustainable access to safe water and hygiene facilities, and the design and delivery of WASH services are more sustainable and inclusive.¹¹⁰

Case study: Women lead community actions to restore endangered coastal ecosystems¹¹¹

Deforestation in Palau was resulting in soil erosion and damage to both freshwater sources and critical coastal protection systems such as coral reefs and mangroves. The Ebiil Society – a local community organisation – supported local women to lead the implementation of watershed restoration plans, promoting women's decision making over land aligned to the matrilineal tradition of Palauan society. Elderly women participated as carriers of traditional knowledge, while local women's groups, youth groups, schools and households participated in tree planting to restore degraded areas. The community learned about plant collection and propagation, endangered species, sustainable gardening, soil treatment, and erosion control. Over 2,600 trees were planted to resist floods and soil runoff.

¹⁰⁹ Water for Women. 2022. Shifting Social Norms for Transformative WASH: Review of Concepts, Literature and Practice. <https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/news/towards-transformation-shifting-social-norms-for-transformative-wash.aspx>

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ebiil Society (no date). *Women lead community actions to restore endangered coastal ecosystems on the Pacific Island Palau: Non-Technical Solutions*. New York: Women and Gender Constituency. https://womensgenderclimate.org/gjc_solutions/women-lead-community-actions-to-restore-endangered-coast-ecosystems-on-the-pacific-island-palau/

Part 3: Example Program Logic

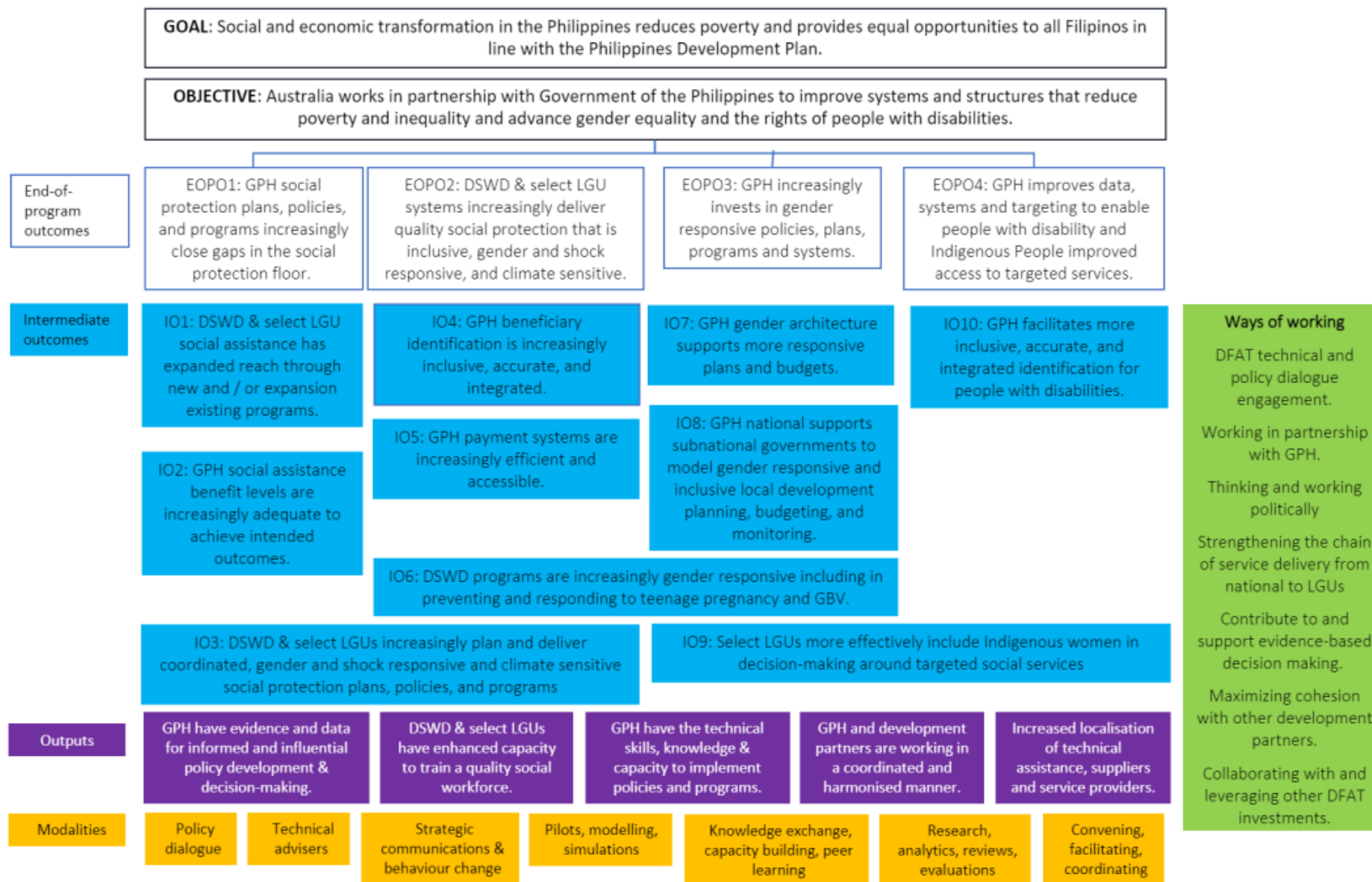
Agriculture

Context: Decreasing crop yields and economic hardship are resulting in more agricultural landowners/farmers transitioning their land to illicit crops (maladaptation), decreasing local availability of food and reducing food security.



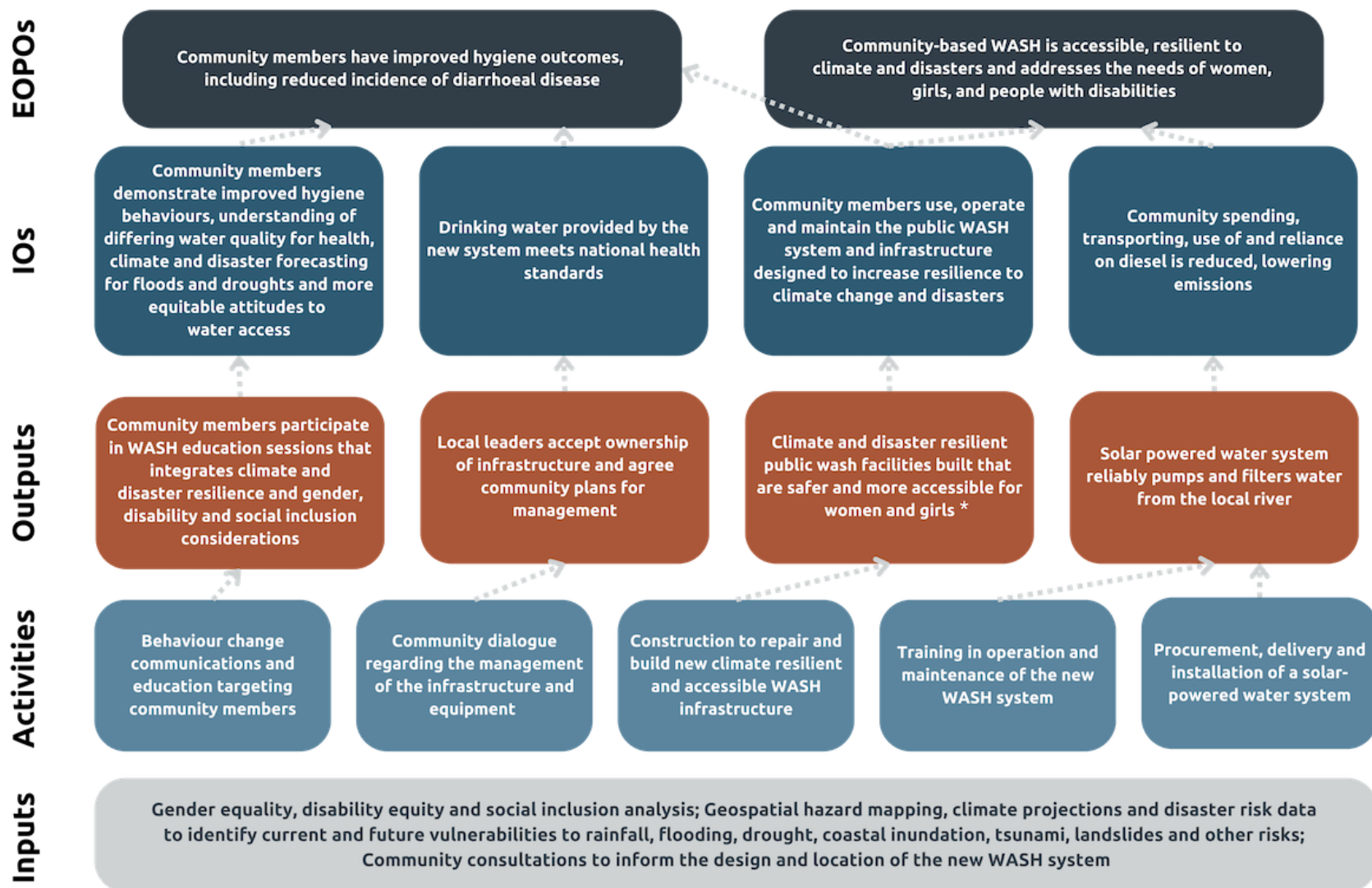
Social Protection

Context: Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender Equality (SPRING) program, Philippines



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Context: A community in a remote area has been left without potable water and sanitation following a landslide which damaged infrastructure and broke the old diesel-operated water pump.



**Including with adequate lighting, positioned in safe locations that are located in areas less affected by climate shocks, safe and private entrances, secure doors, and accessibility standards and universal design incorporated.*