

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Why women's participation is key?

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The presentation will address:

- Why is participation important for the **implementation of the SDGs** (particularly for environment related SDGs)?
- How to ensure a **balanced and meaningful participation** and **multi-stakeholder engagement** for sustainable development?





Take a look at environment-related SDGs and linkages to gender equality: why it is important for women's participation to achieve these goals?

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

TARGETS

8

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



Two to six times
more women than men
carry the burden of
collecting water

Despite remarkable progress in improving household access to clean water, sub-regional disparities remain the major challenge. In 2015, among rural populations in the Pacific, 38 per cent used safely managed sanitation, compared to 75.7 per cent in urban areas.

WHY IT MATTERS

Safe drinking water and sanitation are particularly important for women and girls, who are most often the primary users, providers and managers of water in their households. The lack of adequate sanitation may increase women's risk of violence and harassment, be it at school, at work or in their communities.

women and girls are responsible for **water collection in 80% of households in developing countries.**

Globally, it is reported that **women spent 73 billion hours fetching water for household use.** This time could have been spent on income generation opportunities, nutrition, improving family health and schooling of children.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

TARGETS

5

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



While more than
95%
of households are
connected to electricity,
only **56%**
access clean energy

In rural households, women are often the primary energy managers, spending hours each day collecting fuel to cook and to heat their homes. In 2014, 80 per cent or more of Asia's rural populations had access to electricity, except in the Pacific, where just over a third had access.

WHY IT MATTERS

Lack of access to clean, affordable energy adversely affects time use, health and economic opportunities. As women are primarily responsible for household activities such as cooking and cleaning, they can play a powerful role in the successful transition to sustainable energy for all.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12

Ensure sustainable
consumption and
production patterns

TARGETS

11

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



Investing in public
transportation benefits
women, who rely on public
transport more than men do

While it is commonly assumed that women are more eco-conscious, systemic change in consumption and production will require public and private sector to play a role promoting sustainable production practices.

WHY IT MATTERS

Unsustainable production and consumption patterns are the key driver behind climate change, which has a disproportionate impact on women. Women in developing countries are often at the forefront of efforts to promote responsible consumption through waste-picking and recycling.

Climate-related disasters now account for **80%** of all disaster events in Asia and the Pacific region.

How many people do you think are affected?

1.3 billion people



Poor rural and indigenous women depend on local natural resources for their livelihood and are disproportionately affected by climate change

Women in developing countries are more likely to rely on agriculture, be responsible for collecting water and involved in small-scale fisheries. Natural disasters also have a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are more likely to die during disasters, or experience violence in their aftermath.

WHY IT MATTERS

Asia and the Pacific is one of the regions most affected by the harmful impacts of climate change. Women play a key role in mitigating and adapting to climate change risks. This role must be supported, recognized and strengthened if sustainable development is to be achieved in the region.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SDG 14

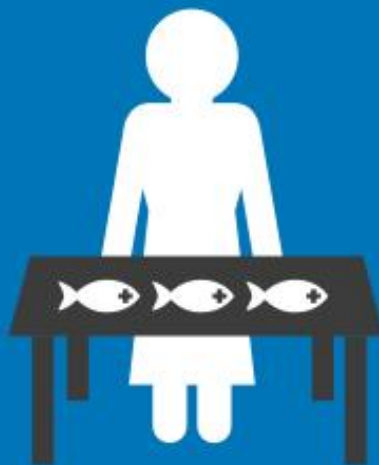
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

TARGETS

10

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



In the Mekong river basin, almost 5,000 fish markets are run by women, and women account for around **56%** of the annual small-scale fishery catches in the Pacific Island

In Asia and the Pacific, women play an important role in fishery value chains. However, women are often confined to low-skilled, vulnerable jobs. This puts their health at risk, and earning less than men for the same work in areas such as aquaculture.

WHY IT MATTERS

Rising sea levels are having significant impacts on communities—most especially in Bangladesh, Maldives and other low-lying areas in Asia and the Pacific. Those most at risk include families living in coastal communities and those who depend on oceans for their livelihood. Enable women to have decision-making power in local fisheries are critical to enhance governance and conservation.



SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

TARGETS

12

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



Some 135,000 km² of natural forest were lost in Asia and the Pacific between 2000 and 2015. This accounts for **10% of the world's total loss of natural forest**

The impact of loss of forest was felt more by women, particularly those from rural, landless and land-poor households, who depend on forests to perform their roles in cooking, cattle care, supplementing household nutrition and related tasks.

WHY IT MATTERS

Research shows that women's participation in community forest management bodies yields positive outcomes for both forest sustainability and gender equality. Ensuring women's participation in the governance of natural resources is critical for sustainable development.

Asia and the Pacific regional infographic

Women make up **43% of agricultural labourers globally (and more than half in a number of developing countries)**, they own just **20% of land**. Most of these women are engaged in subsistence farming with low productivity and high exposure to climate change.

only 5% of rural agricultural advisory services specifically target women and only 15% of staff providing these services are women because largely women are not recognized as knowledge holders given restricting **social norms and traditional views**.

Women's rights and participation



Addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and supporting the participation of women in responses to climate change enshrined in international norms and agreements:

- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- UN Conference for Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (1992)
- Sendai Framework 2015-2030
- Pacific Framework for Resilience Development 2017-2030

Women's participation and leadership: why?



- **Women's participation** in planning and policy formulation is a **pre-condition** for addressing environmental challenges, including differentiated risks and improving their role as climate change actors
 - Women as **agent of change**, they are often the **first responders to shocks** and **frontline to environment conservation**
 - When women are meaningfully engaged, their needs are addressed, the environmental sustainability and resilience are accelerated, efficient, and more effective.
 - Women contribute to meeting both the **immediate and recovery needs** of their families as well as of their communities.
- However, in reality, they have **lower participation/influence** in decision making process on climate change/DRR and renewable energy

(i) Women and marginalised groups are able to exercise their rights to lead, meaningfully **participate in**, and influence climate change and DRR decision-making processes

(ii) Governments and key stakeholders are able to generate, analyse and use sex, age, and diversity disaggregated data to inform climate change and disaster risks and actions

(iii) National institutions include CC/DRR regulatory and policy frameworks to enhance responsiveness to human rights and gender equality

(iv) Women are able to 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 and marginalized groups 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 addresses key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities

Increase awareness of the different climate change impacts of women, men, boys and girls

Include gender and environment statistics

collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data

in address the underlying inequalities
legal and institutional frameworks **identify gaps**

national women's machineries and gender advocates in the institutional arrangement

accountability mechanisms



Thank you!