



POLICY BRIEF 10



# CLIMATE

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
GREEN GROWTH AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT  
CAMBODIA GENDER ASSESSMENT

2014

Cover photo:

**Heng Pheap** (41) works as an agricultural laborer in Arey Skat, Kandal Province.

She previously worked as a weaver, but this work is no longer profitable. Pheap now works on other people's farms for a small income.



# 10. CLIMATE

## GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GREEN GROWTH, AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### POLICY CONTEXT

#### Rectangular Strategy

In relation to Cambodia's Climate Change Agenda, the Rectangular Strategy Phase III aims to implement the following four main strategies:

1. Sustainable management of natural resources.
2. Intensifying efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change by strengthening adaptation capacity and resilience to climate change, particularly by implementing the National Policy on Green Development (Growth) and National Strategic Plan on Green Development (Growth) 2013-2030.
3. Continue to strengthen technical and institutional capacity to promote the mainstreaming of climate change responses into the policies, laws and plans at national and sub-national levels.
4. Continue to introduce measures to control environmental and ecosystem pollution.

To reduce the impacts of climate change on women, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) prioritizes “further reducing morbidity and mortality rates caused by chronic non-communicable diseases and other public health vulnerabilities related to food safety, drug use, alcohol and tobacco consumption,



traffic accidents, disasters, environment and climate change”.

The Government continues to “promote the role of women and youth in the economy through strengthening vocational training programs; equipping them with technical and entrepreneurial skills and empowering women and youth.”

### National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 (NSDP)

In response to the Rectangular Strategy, the following prioritized strategies on gender and climate change and green growth have been identified in the NSDP 2014-2018:

- Ensuring the relevant policies and strategies on climate change, green growth and disaster risk management are gender responsive.
- Increasing climate change resilience for the community, especially for women and girls.
- Reducing the impacts on women’s and children’s health,

▲ The Royal Government of Cambodia launched National Policies on Climate Change and Green Growth.



especially during flood and drought.

- Increasing their knowledge on mitigation measures to ensure natural resource sustainability and environmental protection.
- Building the capacity of state and non-state development agencies for gender mainstreaming in environment and climate change policies, programs and national environmental action plans.

## Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023

The RGC recognizes that the rural poor of Cambodia, the majority of whom are women, are most vulnerable to climate change impacts due to their high dependence on agriculture and natural resources. This vulnerable group is susceptible to diseases due to their limited resources and capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, including a lack of preparedness to cope with climate risks and hazards. There is a need to mainstream gender into climate change response measures, such as into existing policies and laws and sector climate change strategic plans (SCCSPs) in order for this cross-cutting issue to be supported by all government agencies, especially at national and sub-national levels, by development partners, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), research and academic institutions and the private sector. In response, the Government has put in place ‘Strategic Objective 2: Reduce sectoral, regional, gender vulnerability and health risks to climate change impacts’.

## FINDINGS

### Global climate change and its impact in Cambodia


There are various definitions of climate change which have been developed by the International Energy Agency (IEA)<sup>1</sup>, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>2</sup> and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>3</sup>. The World Health Organization (WHO) uses a definition that is simple and easy to understand. The emission of greenhouse gases has been happening since the eighteen century.

“Over the last 50 years, human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels – have released sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to trap additional heat in the lower atmosphere and affect the global climate.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iea.org/topics/climatechange/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/Default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/syr/en/mains1.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/syr/en/mains1.html)



In the last 100 years, the world has warmed by approximately 0.75°C. Over the last 25 years, the rate of global warming has accelerated, at over 0.18°C per decade. Sea levels are rising, glaciers are melting and precipitation patterns are changing. Extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent”<sup>4</sup>.

The threat of climate change, manifested by the increase of droughts, storms or floods, has been recognized as a key global development challenge. Not only does climate change have broad impacts on the natural environment, it also impacts the economy and social development. The gravity of these impacts varies among regions, income groups and occupations, as well as between women and men.

In Cambodia, the impacts are crucial for agriculture and the lives of mostly rural communities. As the majority of Cambodian people still rely on rain-fed rice farming as a main source of household income, a change of climate directly threatens people’s livelihoods, in both the short and long term.

Poor management of natural resources has had serious impacts on the local economy, as most communities rely on natural forest cover; a majority of these people are women and children.

Generally, all policies, strategies and projects dealing with climate change are either about climate change adaptation or climate change mitigation. It is important to draw a distinction between the two.

Climate change adaptation aims to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. This is done by strengthening national institutional capacity for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning. It includes national efforts to integrate climate change adaptation measures into development planning and ecosystem management practices. The overall work on climate change adaptation is guided by and contributes to the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation, a program developed by the UN-Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>5</sup> to help countries understand climate change impacts and adapt to climate change.

To improve access to knowledge for adaptation, UNEP works to mobilize existing knowledge and good practices at the global, regional and national levels, including through the Global Adaptation Network (GAN)<sup>6</sup> and its regional networks<sup>7</sup>.


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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ganadapt.org/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/Default.aspx>



Climate change mitigation is about proactively moving towards low-carbon societies and refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gases. Mitigation can mean using new technology and renewable energy, making older equipment more energy efficient, or changing management practices or consumer behaviour.

Efforts are underway around the world and range from high-tech subway systems, to bicycle paths and walkways. Protecting natural carbon sinks like forests and oceans, or creating new sinks through silviculture<sup>8</sup> or green agriculture also contribute to mitigation. UNEP takes a multifaceted approach to climate change mitigation in its efforts to help countries move towards a low-carbon society<sup>9</sup>.

Climate change is expected to compound and amplify development challenges, stresses and problems in Cambodia, further affecting poor and marginalized people, particularly women and children. Women have disproportionate access to financial resources, land, natural resources, education, health, rights and other development services that are essential for effective adaptation to climate change. For the vast majority of women working in the informal sector and in small enterprises who lack capital and access to credit, information or knowledge, recovering from the devastating effects of environmental disasters is nearly impossible<sup>10</sup>.

As women's participation in the economy is high in Cambodia, there are ample green-growth related opportunities for them in the medium and long term.

## Impacts of Climate Change on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women considered climate change to be an emerging issue in its 52<sup>nd</sup> session in 2008<sup>11</sup>. Participants drew attention to the fact that climate change is not a gender-neutral phenomenon, stressing that it has a higher impact on women due to their domestic work, and makes their daily life even more difficult.

The Commission called for efforts on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, specifically referring to the impact of climate change on women and girls. It called for governments to: integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national environmental policies; to strengthen mechanisms; and to provide adequate

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/ByUnique/INFD-6V4BGP>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/mitigation/>

<sup>10</sup> Oxfam America (2010) *Rural Women, Gender and Climate Change*. Cambodia.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/52sess.htm>



resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, particularly on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls<sup>12</sup>.

▲ A change in climate directly affects people's livelihoods.

In Cambodia, women in rural areas are especially dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, because of their domestic responsibilities to secure water, food and energy for cooking and other household activities. The effects of climate change, including drought, uncertain rainfall and deforestation, make it harder for them to secure these resources. Compared with men, women face historical disadvantages, including limited access to decision-making and economic assets that compound the challenges of climate change<sup>13</sup>.

In 1991, a cyclone in Bangladesh killed 140,000 people, 90 percent of which were women. Among the age group 20-44, women accounted

<sup>12</sup> 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2008) Supplement No. 7. (E/2008/27-E/CN.6/2008/11). United Nations. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/52sess.htm>

<sup>13</sup> 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2008) *Gender perspectives on climate change*. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/issuespapers/Gender%20and%20climate%20change%20paper%20final.pdf>

for 71 out of 1,000 victims, compared to 15 out of 1,000 for men. Young girls and people with low socio-economic status were considered at higher risk after this catastrophe.

In 2012, Cambodia had a total labour force of 8.3 million people<sup>14</sup>, of a total population of 14.86 million people. Women played a major role in economic development in terms of participation in the labour market as business owners. The private sector contributed to national economic growth, which increased by an average of 7 percent during the past few years. In 2012, a gross domestic product of US\$14.06 billion<sup>15</sup> was generated, mainly from agriculture, tourism, construction and light manufacturing industries, including garments.

**Table 1: Labour Force Participation of Women and Men in Main Sectors in 2012 (%)**

Sectors	Women	Men
Agriculture	52.8	49.3
Industry	18.1	19.0
Service	29.1	31.7

*Source: Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2012*

The total labour participation rate, which is the proportion of economically active people aged 15 years and older was 71 percent. The labour participation rate of women is 79 percent<sup>16</sup>. Across the predominant economic sectors, women make up 53 percent of total employment in agriculture; 73 percent of those women are found in vulnerable employment situations, meaning that almost three out of four jobs for women in Cambodia are classified as vulnerable. Although such vulnerabilities are rooted mostly in the complex economics of global value chains, they are aggravated by the impacts of climate change.

In addition to representing a major share of the labour force, women own and manage a large number of business enterprises. According to the Cambodia Economic Census 2011<sup>17</sup>, throughout Cambodia there are 500,000 business establishments, 65 percent of which are owned and run by women<sup>18</sup>. However, most of those are very small, informal businesses run by the female-owner herself with no, or very few employees.


<sup>14</sup> [www.worldbank.org/Data/Countries/Cambodia](http://www.worldbank.org/Data/Countries/Cambodia) (Total Labor Force= people aged 15+ in ILO definitions)

<sup>15</sup> [www.worldbank.org/Data/Countries/Cambodia](http://www.worldbank.org/Data/Countries/Cambodia) (Gross Domestic Product\_ GDP\_current 2012 US\$)

<sup>16</sup> [www.worldbank.org/Data/Countries/Cambodia](http://www.worldbank.org/Data/Countries/Cambodia) (Labour participation rate (total, male, female) % aged 15+)

<sup>17</sup> National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, JICA (2011) *Cambodia Economic Census*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

<sup>18</sup> The Asia Foundation (2009) *Cambodia Provincial Business Environment Scorecard Survey*.



It is evident that with the impact of climate change, such as flood, drought, storms and increased temperature, the livelihoods of women and their families are at stake as most of them rely on agricultural and industrial sectors in rural areas, particularly indigenous people who rely completely on their traditional planting and natural resources.

These threats pose challenges in climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as the reduction of greenhouse gases and green growth. Therefore, women's economic empowerment and climate change are directly related and create opportunities for women to work towards a low-carbon society<sup>19</sup>.

## Climate change mitigation and women's economic empowerment

Globally, substantial commitments have been pledged by governments for new green technologies, on the basis that government action to create new green jobs is not only sustainable but may help in economic recovery. According to a recent ILO report<sup>20</sup>, green jobs in the agriculture, industry, services and administration sectors, even with government subsidies, can promote sustainable economic growth with long-term economic impacts.

Adapting to and mitigating climate change involves a transition to new patterns of production, consumption and employment. Huge opportunities exist to create green jobs through energy and industrialization policies that reduce the environmental footprint. These jobs can provide employment and income that contribute to sustainable economic growth.


Women can be strong change agents and key contributors to climate change mitigation and adaptation programs at all levels. Often women hold a wide range of responsibilities in households, communities and as stewards of natural resources. This positions them well to contribute to developing strategies for adapting to changing environmental realities and introducing innovative, green economic activities. Experience has shown that communities fare better during natural disasters when women play a leadership role in early warning systems and reconstruction. Women tend to share information related to community well-being, choose less polluting energy sources and adapt more easily to environmental changes when their family's survival is at stake<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/mitigation/>

<sup>20</sup> ILO, Bureau for Gender Equality – (January 2009). *Green Jobs: Improving the Climate for Gender Equality too!* [www.ilo.org/gender](http://www.ilo.org/gender) (Publications) [www.ilo.org/gender](http://www.ilo.org/gender) (Publications)

<sup>21</sup> ILO (2009) *Gender equality at the heart of decent work*. Geneva.



In March 2013, the Government launched its National Policy on Green Growth<sup>22</sup> that aims to “strike a balance between economic development and environment, society and culture, to reach sustainable development goals”.

Prior to the launch of this initiative, in November 2011, the 4<sup>th</sup> East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting entitled “Building Resilience to Economic Crisis and Moving Forward”, held in Siem Reap<sup>23</sup>, made the following specific recommendations for Cambodia on a green economy:

- Women entrepreneurs: Mechanisms (such as women’s business associations) should be strengthened to promote entrepreneurship, access to business-related information, green technology and financial services.
- Organic and sustainable agriculture: the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should develop an organic agriculture policy framework and program. Extension services should proactively target female farmers and women’s groups.
- Green procurement: Public sector procurement should prioritise wherever possible green products and services, especially sustainably produced (organic and chemical free) food and other products for government offices, schools, hospitals and embassies. Priority should be given to women-led enterprises.
- Public Private Partnerships (PPP): Promotion of PPPs will be a key strategy for promoting green growth. Regulatory frameworks need to be adjusted to provide appropriate incentives. Sector-based policy research is needed to identify the most important opportunities.

Women’s economic empowerment in the context of climate change mitigation and green growth is gaining more focus for the future strategic outlook of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA).

Women’s economic empowerment bears largely untapped potential for the development of green products and services, including finance, skills, and especially knowledge and information on how to start, manage and grow a competitive, sustainable green business. Women should be widely encouraged to start and improve their own businesses as entrepreneurs, where urgently needed productivity increases, innovation and employment could be generated by and for them.

<sup>22</sup> RGC, National Council of Green Growth (2013) *National Policy on Green Growth*. Cambodia.

<sup>23</sup> The 4th East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting entitled “Building Resilience to Economic Crisis and Moving Forward”, Final Report, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, 17-18 November, 2011, Siem Reap, Cambodia.



## Women, Gender Equality and Energy


Energy is a critical area and renewable energy is often cited as a key climate change mitigation initiative. Traditionally, energy is considered in terms of electricity to operate appliances and equipment, gasoline and diesel fuels for cars and vehicles, and the production of oil for natural gas. Dealing with these sources of electricity and fuel is often considered men's work, and women are not expected to be involved with power generation and fuel distribution<sup>24</sup>.

As a result, women and men face differences in training and social expectations, with women rarely included in discussions on energy policies. This exclusion means that women have not traditionally participated in, nor contributed to the elaboration of key strategies to mitigate climate change.

The lack of recognition of the role of women in the energy sector leads to 'gender-blind' energy policies. These policies can potentially be haz-

▲ There are many green-growth related opportunities for women.

<sup>24</sup> *Where Energy is Women's Business: National and Regional Reports from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific* [http://www.energia.org/fileadmin/files/media/pubs/karlsson\\_csdbook\\_lores.pdf](http://www.energia.org/fileadmin/files/media/pubs/karlsson_csdbook_lores.pdf)



ardous to the natural environment, or economically and socially unsustainable; as often observed, for example, in large-scale hydro-power projects.

Links between energy suppliers, gender roles and climate change are strongest in areas with limited availability of basic electricity and modern fuels, and high dependence on traditional biomass fuels, such as wood, charcoal and agricultural waste for cooking, heating and lighting. Collecting and managing these fuels is traditionally women's work. With aggravated environmental changes, women are likely to continue spending increasingly longer hours fetching firewood, drawing water, performing agricultural work, care-giving and preparing food for the family.

Women should be actively engaged in decision-making about national energy policies, so that energy supplies can be managed more effectively and appropriately in the face of climate change.

## Climate change and women's health

The IPCC states that “climate change is projected to increase threats to human health”.

Climate change can affect human health directly (e.g. impacts of thermal stress, death/injury in floods and storms) and indirectly, through changes in the range of disease vectors (e.g. mosquitoes), water-borne pathogens, water quality, air quality and food availability and quality. The IPCC also states that social impacts will vary depending on age, socioeconomic class, occupation and gender, with the world's poorest people being most affected<sup>25</sup>.

Climate change affects most social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter<sup>26</sup>.

According to a recent report by WHO<sup>27</sup>, seven million people die each year because of exposure to air pollution. That equates to one in every eight deaths across the globe, making air pollution the single greatest environmental health risk on earth. Its findings suggest a link between air pollution and heart disease, respiratory problems and cancer.


“Poor women and children are suffering most from indoor air pollution since they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal and wood cook stoves.”<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *Gender, Climate Change and Health\_Draft Discussion Paper\_WHO\_* <http://www.who.int/phe/en/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.who.int/phe/health\\_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/](http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/)

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-26730178>



Globally, the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s. Rising sea levels and increasingly extreme weather events will destroy homes, medical facilities and other essential services. People may be forced to move, which in turn heightens the risk of a range of health effects, from mental disorders to communicable diseases.

There is some evidence that women and men suffer different negative health consequences following extreme events like floods, droughts and heat waves. Rising temperatures will, for example, increase the transmission of malaria which worldwide already causes 300 million acute illnesses and kills one million people every year. Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to malaria as they are twice as ‘appealing’ to malaria-carrying mosquitoes as non-pregnant women<sup>29</sup>.

Modelling studies indicate that a 2°C rise could potentially cause 5 percent to 20 percent reductions in cereal grain yields in South-East Asia, which could significantly exacerbate the pre-existing condition of poor nutrition and cause adverse health outcomes (particularly physical and mental development of children). In many urban populations, it is estimated that a 2°C rise could double the annual death rate from heat waves.

Flooding is one the most widespread climatic hazards that pose multiple risks to human health. In Cambodia, floods are increasing in frequency and intensity. Floods contaminate freshwater supplies and heighten the risk of water-borne diseases transmitted through insects. Floods directly cause drowning and physical injuries, damage homes and disrupt the supply of medical and health services, including those essential for maternal and child health.

The World Disaster Report<sup>30</sup> recognizes the widespread consensus that “women and girls are at higher risk of sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking and domestic violence in disasters”, often becoming separated from family, friends and other potential support and protective systems. Women may avoid using shelters as a result of fear of these events. Psychological stress is likely to be heightened after disasters, particularly where families are displaced and have to live in emergency or transitional housing. Overcrowding, lack of privacy and the collapse of regular routines and livelihood patterns can contribute to anger, frustration and violence, with children and women most vulnerable.

In 2009, the World Health Assembly endorsed a new WHO work plan on climate

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<sup>29</sup> Espinosa, Duarte Alecrim, Daniel-Ribeiro (2000) Attraction of mosquitoes to pregnant women. The Lancet, Volume 356, Issue 9230, Page 685, 19 August 2000.

<sup>30</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) (2007) World Disaster Report. Geneva.



change and health<sup>31</sup>. It includes:

- **Advocacy:** to raise awareness that climate change is a fundamental threat to human health.
- **Partnerships:** to coordinate with partner agencies within the UN system, and ensure that health is properly represented in the climate change agenda.
- **Science and evidence:** to coordinate reviews of scientific evidence on the links between climate change and health, and develop a global research agenda.
- **Health system strengthening:** to assist countries assess their health vulnerabilities and build capacity to reduce health vulnerability to climate change.

## **The Gender and Climate Change Strategic Plan (GCCSP)<sup>32</sup>**

Based on the policy framework and strategy of the Government, MoWA launched its GCCSP in February 2013. This was drafted by the Gender and Climate Change Committee (GCCC) with support from UNDP.

The approach of the GCCSP includes gender mainstreaming and targeted pilot interventions. It will be aligned with all relevant national policies, including the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, Phase III<sup>33</sup>, the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs), the National Strategic Development Plan (2014-2018) and Neary Rattanak IV, drawing on women's knowledge and roles relevant to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

To implement the GCCSP, MoWA and its GCCC will engage already existing institutional mechanisms, such as coordination with Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups (GMAGs) of line ministries. In addition, the Technical Working Group on Gender (TWG-G), capital, provincial, municipality, district and khan Women and Children Consultative Committees (WCCC) and the Commune/Sangkat Committee for Women and Children (CCWC) will be activated. In addition to other line ministries, the TWG-G comprises bi-lateral and multi-lateral development partners (e.g. UN agencies), international and national NGOs, representatives of the private sector, media, universities and faith-based organizations. The recently

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.who.int/globalchange/health\\_policy/wha\\_eb\\_documentation/A63\\_27\\_en\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.who.int/globalchange/health_policy/wha_eb_documentation/A63_27_en_climate_change.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Ministry of Women's Affairs (2013) *Gender and Climate Change Strategic Plan (GCCSP)*. Phnom Penh.


<sup>33</sup> [http://cnv.org.kh/en/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/26sep13\\_rectangular-strategy\\_phaseIII.pdf](http://cnv.org.kh/en/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/26sep13_rectangular-strategy_phaseIII.pdf)



formed Sub-Group on Women's Economic Empowerment will also be used as a platform for the GCCSP. The GCCSP of MoWA has the following core elements:

1. Promote women in decision-making on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and natural disaster management at all levels and domains.
2. Increase the level of awareness on gender and climate change, including natural disasters, within MoWA and its decentralized offices and stakeholders.
3. Increase the level of capacity of MoWA and its decentralized offices and stakeholders on gender-integrated vulnerability and capacity assessment, planning methods for climate change adaptation and mitigation and natural disaster management.
4. Deliver targeted interventions for women with a high level of vulnerability to strengthen their climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities and empowerment (e.g. food security,

▲ Climate change will increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts, storms and floods.



nutrition, sustainable access to clean water, urban and rural livelihoods, waste management, access to information and support group formation).

5. Conduct research and development to increase the availability of data and information on gender and climate change.
6. Elicit best practices and lessons on gender and climate change for scaling up, learning and sharing.

## The Gender and Climate Change Action Plan<sup>34</sup>

Based on the GCCSP, there is an on-going consultative process for the development of the five-year Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (GCCAP) (2014-2018). The GCCAP is meant to translate the recommendations of the GCCSP into action. The GCCAP addresses women and other vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly through capacity development measures for women in policy-dialogue, leadership, livelihood development, green growth and building climate change resilience in communities.

The GCCAP was developed with guidance and support from the Cambodian Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE). According to the consultations for the development of Neary Rattanak IV (2014-2018) MoWA has included Strategic Area 6 on ‘Gender, Climate Change and Green Growth, and Disaster Risk Management’, in response to the Government’s Rectangular Strategy Phase III. Gender is considered an important guiding principle in planning and formulating climate change measures and actions. The GCCAP is designed in line with the annual action plan for implementation, with budget support from the Government and development partners.

The GCCAP engages the following three strategies:

- 1) Strengthen institutional capacity and cross-sectoral coordination to reduce the vulnerability of women to climate change impacts;
- 2) Improve capacity, knowledge and awareness on gender and climate change response;
- 3) Promote gender-responsive climate change responses.


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<sup>34</sup> Ministry of Women’s Affairs (2014) *Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (GCCAP/2014-2018) Draft 03-2014*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a policy framework and program for organic and sustainable agriculture. Extension services should proactively target women farmers, especially vulnerable women.</li> </ul>	MAFF, MoWA, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with relevant institutions to provide technical extension services on organic agriculture and climate change adaptation to women, especially vulnerable women.</li> </ul>	MoWA, NCGG, NCCC, NCDM, MoI, NCDD, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create awareness among women entrepreneurs about green growth by providing information on green technology and promoting entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>	MoWA, NCGG, NCCC, NCDM, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote low carbon economic activities, including new technology, among women, particularly vulnerable women, through green agriculture and small industries.</li> </ul>	MIH, MoE, MoWA, NCGG, NCCC, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and promote gender equality in sustainable community forest management, including indigenous communities, to absorb carbon emissions.</li> </ul>	MoE, MoWA, NCCC, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women entrepreneurs should be given equal opportunities in public bidding for the procurement of green products and services, especially sustainably produced (organic and chemical free) food and other products for government offices, schools, hospitals and embassies.</li> </ul>	MIH, MoWA, NCGG, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce public private partnerships (PPPs) as a key strategy for promoting green growth and entrepreneurship among women. (Regulatory frameworks need to be adjusted and more research is needed to identify appropriate opportunities for PPP).</li> </ul>	MIH, MoWA, LMs, NCGG

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an early warning information system, including weather forecasts, and disseminate information especially among women, particularly vulnerable women.</li> </ul>	NCCC, MoWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use MoWA's Women's Development Centres (WDCs) for skills training among women, particularly vulnerable women, on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.</li> </ul>	MoWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research, compile and encourage the use of renewable energy among families and communities, especially among women, such as solar, wind and biomass digester, and new technology.</li> </ul>	NCCC, NCGG, MoWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities for using information and communication technology (ICT) among women in agriculture to promote green micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and increase access to climate relevant information.</li> </ul>	MoWA, MAFF, MoIn, NCCC, MoPT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct assessments and research on vulnerabilities, and the quality of health services for women, particularly vulnerable women and children affected by climate change.</li> </ul>	NCCC, MoWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with line ministries, development partners and CSOs to ensure that the health of women (especially vulnerable women) and children is properly addressed in the climate change agenda.</li> </ul>	MoWA, NCCC, LMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstream gender and implement strategies and plans at national and sub-national levels, including the disaster preparedness plan, especially related to flood, drought and storms.</li> </ul>	NCDM, MoWA, NCDD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up feedback mechanisms on disasters from affected communities.</li> </ul>	NCDM



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream gender into the process of development and implementation of policies and plans related to climate change. Monitor implementation and budgeting with the participation of relevant institutions to ensure transparency and accountability.</li> </ul>	NCCC, MoWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate adequate national budget to support the implementation of the policies and action plans on gender and climate change.</li> </ul>	NCCC, MEF, LMs, MoWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework on gender and climate change.</li> </ul>	NCCC, LMs, MoWA



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