



# SPCR NEWS-Cambodia



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## Lessons Learnt for Mainstreaming Gender Equality into Climate Investment Activities

Based on 4-year implementation (2015-2019) of the Technical Assistance for Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning under Strategic Program for Climate Resilience which funded by Climate Investment Funds through Asian Development Bank, key lessons learned relates to gender and climate change are documented as following:

- Climate investment projects need to assess how multi-dimensional factors such as gender dynamics, poverty levels, social exclusion, access to decision-making and control over resources, including natural resources, contribute to vulnerability of women and other groups. Addressing the underlying factors that increase vulnerability to climate risks is fundamental to building resilience.
- Adaptation promotes new technologies and ways of planning and decision-making that can transform traditional livelihoods, divisions of labor, community structures, resource management systems and other factors that create opportunities to transform gender dynamics and promote equality and women's empowerment.
- Gender analysis should be integrated into the feasibility study process for the conceptual stage. Projects needs to be identified for further study based on the potential to shape adaptation efforts that contribute to gender equality and women's

economic empowerment.

- Adaptation training and capacity development efforts need to be inclusive so that sector officials, women's affairs officials, sub-national government representatives and civil society are equipped with the tools and skills to cooperate across areas of expertise and build integrated frameworks to address climate change, gender equality and women's empowerment at all level.
- Ensure the monitoring and evaluation framework for climate finance programs and projects integrate sex-disaggregated indicators as well qualitative indicators to measure progress on how adaptation initiatives are contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Developing the feasibility studies into complete proposals that fully integrate and reinforce the gender dimensions. Further consultations with sector government and Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) could identify ways to further integrate gender equality measures into the project results and activities as well as how the project management structure will be designed to engage women's participation and contribute their empowerment with indicators to measure progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.

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- Continue training, capacity-building and support for institutional interaction on gender mainstreaming issues through the Gender and Climate Change Committee (GCCC) and other forums that bring together Department of Climate Change, MOWA, sector departments, sub-national government and civil society.
- Identify the most relevant tools on gender mainstreaming in adaptation and develop a complete set of tools in Khmer language that government officials and development practitioners can apply in integrating gender into the project management cycle for climate investments.
- Identify and undertake case studies, surveys and pilot projects at different levels, sectors and regions of the country to demonstrate how gender has been mainstreaming into climate investments to provide examples to be improved, replicated and scaled up.
- Develop tools to undertake costs and benefit analysis of different gender mainstreaming measures that can guide climate investment financing decisions.
- Support the GCCC to update training materials and disseminate knowledge and information about mainstreaming gender into climate investment decisions.



## Gender challenges in water resources management

- Improving water resources management practices will be critical as Cambodia adapts to projected climate change impacts where rainfall is less predictable and wet season flooding is more intense. At present, few women participate in the water resources management sector because of customary practices and gender roles that associate men as the leaders of Farmer Water User Committees (FWUCs). The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM) gender guidelines on FWUCs states that women should represent at least 20% of the management committees, yet the guidelines lack measures to create an enabling environment for this to happen. Women are hesitant to stand for election for a number of reasons identified such as being fully occupied with domestic work, childcare and livestock rearing, insufficient education level and skills in committee management, concern about speaking in public, and lack of physical strength for some of the heavy canal maintenance work. Women who are on the committees are likely to hold treasurer or assistant positions, with little decision-making power.
- As women are increasingly working in agriculture and have traditional roles in collecting and managing household water, engaging women to fully participate in FWUCs will become increasingly critical to effective and resilient water resources management.

## Proposed measures to strengthen women's roles in ensuring efficient and resilient water resources management

- Develop information, communication and educational materials, and conduct awareness raising about the importance of women as economic actors and the importance of women's integration into FWUCs.
- Deliver a leadership program followed by mentoring and coaching to equip women to take up leadership positions.
- Equip women with financial literacy and effective communication skills to take on roles in FWUC.
- Establish meeting facilitation guidelines for farmer groups and FWUCs that create conditions where meeting times accord with women's schedules and women are encouraged to articulate their ideas and participate in discussions.
- Make time-saving technologies available (e.g. solar water pump, and sprinkler), accessible and affordable to women so that they have more time to join FWUC.
- Build the capacity MOWRAM gender working groups (provincial and district) on effective gender mainstreaming into local water resources management.

## Lessons Learnt of Climate Change Monitoring & Evaluation Indicators for Community Adaptation Projects

During the implementation of Civil Society Support Mechanism under the Technical Assistance for Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning in Cambodia, the team documented the following lessons learnt based on the consultation and implementation. Keys lessons learnt for consideration to further improve monitoring the up-coming adaptation projects implementation are:

1. Generally Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Cambodia have the capacity to conduct vulnerability assessment to gather information for planning and to identify adaptation options through participatory consultation with concerned communities and local authorities.
2. Most of the Community based climate adaptation projects focus on building adaptive capacity of communities and Sub-national Administration (SNA) relates to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and support the climate resilient livelihoods.
3. Most proposals include mainstreaming of climate change planning in Community Development Planning and Community Investment Planning, which can be an indication of positive influence of CCA/DRR on the SNA planning.
4. Some CSOs acknowledge difficulty in development of M&E framework of adaptation at the beginning of project implementation, but later they found that M&E was very useful for improving project planning and implementation in an effective manner.
5. Most of CSOs have been applying output indicators such as number of training organized, number of people, etc. though they are useful for donors to see on what activities the budgets were spent rather than impact indicators. However, there are less impact indicators were proposed which need further elaboration. In addition, baselines and targets should be verified with SNA to ensure it is objective and reliable.
6. As the adaptation projects are meant to build adaptive capacity of both affected communities and CSOs themselves, there is hardly found any indicators related to the capacity of CSOs, though capacity indicator is part of the Project log-frame.
7. Each development partner has its own result framework indicators for CSOs to follow; therefore there is a lack of common indicators to track climate change adaptation. As a result there is no common guideline for CSOs to come up with a few common adaptation indicators for adaptation projects.
8. Not all CSOs can manage to sustain their development mission after completion of CBCA due to a number of reasons, particularly: i) decline in external funding support from development partners; ii) limited capacity in terms of project proposal writing, high staff turnover (similarly in the government agencies), and low skills of staff.
9. There is no clear evaluation framework introduced to CSOs, which can help assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of adaptation projects, though resources for such maybe limited. This can be explained by the fact that the M&E of adaptation is still in the initial stage of development and integration, especially for community adaptation projects.



## Integrating Adaptation Indicators into Sub-national Development Plans

As the poor are more vulnerable to climate change in Cambodia, various adaptation activities at sub-national level have been implemented to reduce vulnerability and enhance their adaptive capacity. Due to this, to enhance capacity and knowledge of sub-national administration, the guidance on “Development of Adaptation Indicators for Sub-national Development Plans” has been developed based on the existing sub-national administrations (SNA) Monitoring and Evaluation framework for development planning and implementation levels. The guidance was developed by Technical Assistance for Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning-Package C under Strategic Program for Climate Resilience which funded by Climate Investment Funds through Asian Development Bank in collaboration with National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development and their line departments.

M&E framework is an important part of development planning process for all sectors and levels. It would be pragmatic that all indicators must be consistent with the national framework so that data and values of indicators can be aggregated and reliable.

The approach for development of adaptation indicators for SNA 5-years development plans is to take stock of current climate change mainstreaming and integration in the DP5 and 3-year Rolling Investment Program, key identified adaptation activities and interventions, and to develop a set of potential adaptation indicators for adaptation options such as:

- Awareness and adaptive capacity building of communities and sub-national administrations on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Climate resilient livelihoods (integrated farming/smart agriculture technique, improved rice yield, climate resilience crops, fisheries, forest, livestock, crop insurance).
- Irrigation and water management for crops (irrigation, water resources management, infrastructure maintenance, Farmer Water User Committee, commune ponds, drainage).
- Safe drinking water supply and sanitation (drinking water, hygiene and sanitation)
- Disaster Risk Reduction (early warning, health care, prevention and preparedness plans, emergency response and recovery).



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