

Women's leadership in Climate resilience

DRAWN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNITIES IN LOWER –MEKONG SUB-REGION



Context : Climate Change and GEDSI in the Lower Mekong Sub-region

ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGES

- (Due increased carbon emissions; De-forestation; Land degradation; Upstream development)
 - Increasing unpredictable, more frequent & more intense hydro-meteorological hazards
 - Landslides
 - Floods and droughts
 - Sea level rise/saline intrusion : Mekong Delta
 - Changes in seasonal river flows :

GENDER EQUALITY

- Climate Change perpetuates and magnifies structural inequalities ,particularly climate crises bear a greater impact on women:
 - Traditional beliefs and social norms limit the role women can play outside the home and beyond caring roles; lower rates of female labor force participation- particularly in green jobs, value chains, and leadership; occupational segregation and wage gaps
 - Women have lower literacy levels than their male counterparts; lower rates of female graduates in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields
 - Limited representation and participation of in CCA /DRM institutions, policy and decision-making bodies and processes
 - Limited access to and control of economic/financial resources ,transport, information and a gender digital divide
 - The perspectives and role of women in DRM and CCA is often over-looked and under-valued although they are a key resource for both at the household and community levels



THE CONTEXT CONT...

DISABILITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION








- Prioritisation of economic growth such as forest and land conversion and diversion of river flows; over environmental and ecosystem protection with rural communities relying on local natural resources most impacted
- Poverty is increasingly concentrated in remote rural areas and among ethnic minorities/indigenous people who are more likely to reside in these area
- The perspectives and roles of people living with disability; and the knowledge and role of ethnic minorities/indigenous people in DRM/CCA analysis and planning are often over-looked and under-valued
- The vulnerability of marginalized populations will increase, compounded by intersecting impacts related to gender, ethnicity, age, class, and disability, among others

CLIMATE ACTION: POLICIES&PROGRAMS

- Lack of disaggregated data particularly on dimensions of social exclusion such as age and disability in key sectors-including energy, transportation, urban infrastructure, and entrepreneurship limits policy making.
- Knowledge regarding the nexus between gender and social dimensions in climate and environmental action is limited.
- Lack of coordination between water management decision-making bodies create conflicts of interests in different jurisdictions (eg irrigation versus environmental flows, hard infrastructure versus forest conservation)
- Lack of adequate resourcing to national DRM structures particularly at the community level
- Limited integration of DRM and Climate Change into subnational development planning
- Limited coordination horizontally and vertically between key agencies and bodies



THE NEXUS: CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN

Climate change impacts		Impacts exacerbate gender inequalities
Crop failure		Household food provision; increasing work load
Fuel shortage		Household fuel provision; more time for fuelwood collection
Water scarcity		Household water provision; contaminated water; more time for water collection
Natural disasters		Women's greater incidence of mortality
Disease		Lack of access to health care; women's burden as care givers
Displacement		Forced migration increases women's vulnerability
Conflict		Loss of lives; violence against women

Why place women's leadership at the heart of climate action ?

- Women possess unique knowledge and experience, particularly at the local level, their inclusion in decision-making processes is critical to effective climate action.
- Climate action requires 100 percent of the population-
- At the local level, the participation of women in natural resource management is associated with better resource governance and conservation outcomes.
- Expanding women's access to productive resources can increase agricultural production and food security ,reduce the pressure to deforest more and land reduce carbon dioxide emission.
- In the workplace, women's leadership is associated with increased transparency around climate impact
- Climate change affects us all, but not equally: investing in gender equality and women's empowerment has far-reaching benefits, including environmental conservation, poverty reduction, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And by tackling climate change with a gender lens, we can also address women's rights and promote greater gender equality.



CALL TO ACTION: WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ACTION

Governments and Policy-Makers:

- Implement policies that promote gender equality and inclusive decision-making processes in climate change discussions and initiatives.
- Allocate resources and funding specifically for women's leadership development programs in climate change sectors.
- Provide support and training for women in STEM fields and environmental sciences to increase their participation in climate-related research and technology development.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society:

- Advocate for gender-responsive climate policies and programs, highlighting the importance of women's representation and participation in leadership positions.
- Support and collaborate with women-led organizations and initiatives working on climate change to amplify their voices and increase their impact.
- Organize training programs, workshops, and mentorship opportunities to build the capacity of women leaders in climate action.



Businesses and Corporations: -

Ensure diversity and inclusion in their leadership teams and boardrooms by actively recruiting and promoting women in climate-related roles.

- Invest in initiatives that empower women entrepreneurs and innovators in climate change sectors
- integrate gender equality into climate investments across sectors and expand gender-sensitive climate finance.

Women

- Actively seek knowledge and deepen their understanding on climate change and its various dimensions, so that they can effectively communicate and advocate for climate action in various settings
- Build networks and collaborations with like minded individuals and organizations working on climate change. This will amplify their collective leadership and voice
- Actively seek and take up leadership roles and positions. This will position them to influence policies and decisions inline with their interests



About the Oxfam Strengthening Climate Resilience Project



3 YEAR PROJECT , under the Mekong Water Governance Programme.



Supported by DFAT



Aims at strengthening poor people's capacities to deal with shocks and stresses, manage risks, and transform their lives in response to new hazards and opportunities.



Simultaneously, Oxfam seeks to address their underlying causes of vulnerability, and improve the systems and structures that support people in the face of shocks and stresses.



THANK YOU !!



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