



2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 November 2023, ADB Headquarters

DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

We welcomed over 400 participants from 70 countries!

Day 1 of the 2023 ADB Gender Forum explored two critical themes: **Women in the Energy Transition** and **Gender-Responsive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation**. The sessions focused on the vital roles women play in the energy sector's transformation and in adapting agricultural practices to the challenges posed by climate change. These discussions shed light on the importance of integrating women's perspectives and leadership in these key areas for sustainable development and climate resilience.



IN SUMMARY

The day's sessions delved into the nuances of a gender-responsive energy transition, emphasizing the need for women's active involvement in this sector's shift towards sustainability. The session explored how women can be catalysts in promoting climate-resilient agriculture and developing innovative solutions to combat the increasing challenges of heat. The day provided valuable insights into how gender perspectives are essential in driving forward these critical global initiatives. If you missed any of the sessions, keep reading for a recap of the key discussions and takeaways.

OPENING

PRESIDENT MASATSUGU ASAKAWA
WE MUST CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN TO LEAD
GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE FINANCE IS CENTRAL

DIRECTOR GENERAL BRUNO CARRASCO
WOMEN ARE NOT JUST HALF OF OUR POPULATION, THEY CAN ALSO BE HALF THE SOLUTION TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS
BREAK THROUGH THE CARBON CEILING & GLASS CEILING
ADB'S INVESTMENTS FOR WOMEN IN ENERGY, STEM, PRIVATE SECTOR & AGRICULTURE

KEYNOTE: SHAILA SHAHID
21 NOVEMBER 2023

3 THINGS WE CAN DO:

- SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS
- GENDER-RESPONSIVE FINANCING
- FOCUS ON ADAPTATION & BUILDING WOMEN'S RESILIENCE

WOMEN AT COP28 WILL BE LOOKING AT PROGRESS ON:

- LOSS & DAMAGE STRATEGIES - EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SHAPING SOLUTIONS
- MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT DIRECT FINANCE ACCESS FOR WOMEN
- ADVANCE A JUST & EQUITABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

2 BILLION WOMEN & GIRLS CAN ACT AS SOLUTION MULTIPLIER

WE MUST BRING OUR MOST INNOVATIVE THINKING & DEDICATED ACTION TO CONFRONT EVOLVING CHALLENGES

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Opening Session

Welcoming participants, ADB **President Masatsugu Asakawa** underscored that women must be at the center of climate action if we are to meet the Paris Agreement goals. President Masa encouraged participants to support women as changemakers and create opportunities for every one of the two billion women and girls to lead on climate action.





“As Asia and the Pacific’s climate bank, ADB is committed to empowering women and girls across the region and ensuring they are equipped with the right tools to lead on climate action.”

– ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa

ADB Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department **Director General Bruno Carrasco**, in his opening remarks, emphasized that women in Asia and the Pacific are not just half of the region’s population who stand to lose in climate change; they can also be half of the solution to the climate crisis. He added that by empowering women, and promoting gender equality, we can achieve large development impact and more effective climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In her keynote address, 2023 Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR) Leadership Awardee **Shaila Shahid** stressed the important role of women in climate crisis. She shared her personal experience as a Bangladeshi woman who has seen and felt firsthand the devastating impact of climate change and highlighted Bangladesh’s substantial progress in transitioning from vulnerability to resilience. She illustrated the importance of women’s leadership and participation in climate action through case studies from other developing member countries, including stories from Fiji, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Shahid highlighted the critical link between gender equality and climate change, urging the integration of gender concerns into climate policies. Focusing on the Asia-Pacific region, Shahid called for women's involvement at all levels – from global climate negotiations and corporate boardrooms to local grassroots initiatives. She underscored how efforts to protect the environment and biodiversity may prove inadequate if women's traditional knowledge is not integrated. She ended by inviting participants to consider COP28 as an opportunity to bring the agendas of gender responsive climate financing and the just transition to the forefront.

Samantha Hung, ADB Director for Gender Equality, welcomed participants, emphasizing the importance of gender equality and climate action in Asia and the Pacific.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), Samantha highlighted the valuable role women played in rebuilding of damaged communities. She outlined the Forum’s program and highlighted its significance as a collaborative platform





for stakeholders, including government representatives, the private sector, and women's organizations, to share innovative practices and advance SDGs on gender equality and climate action.

THEME 1: WOMEN IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION

WOMEN IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION
A gender inclusive net-zero transition: what it is and why it matters?

21 NOVEMBER 2023

OPENING VERONICA MENDIZABAL JOFFRE, ADB
DAYS UNTIL COP28 | YEARS TO ACHIEVE SDGs | 189 YEARS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC

KEYNOTE H.E. LENNY ROSALYN, INDONESIA
GENDERED IMPACT OF ENERGY | WOMEN'S ACCESS TO CLEAN, AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AS A KEY ENABLER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PANEL SUSANN ROTH, ADB MODERATOR
SOMA DUTTA, ENERGIA: ADDRESS THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL & STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT | SUPPORTING WOMEN'S NETWORKS OF ENTREPRENEURS-GLOBAL PLATFORMS
CHERRIE ATILAND AGREA: ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION | STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY
ROBELIZA HALIP, RIGHT ENERGY PARTNERSHIP: DISPLACEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES | ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY OF IPs
NINA KOLYASHKINA, CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUND: SUPPORTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION UPSTREAM & DOWNSTREAM | LOOKING AT GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

CASE STUDIES TORU KUBO, ADB MODERATOR
FILDA YUSGHANTRO, FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE POLICY RESEARCH CENTER (FPO): RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY | TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS | POLICY | INVESTMENTS & TRAINING
KAMA HANDAYANI, PLN INDONESIA: GENDER EQUALITY IS MONITORABLE THROUGH POLICIES, ESG GOVERNANCE & GUIDELINES | WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGY TRANSITION PROGRAMS
ROSEMARIE IDEM, SE for ALL: BUILD GLOBAL MOMENTUM FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN & YOUTH | YOUTH IN POLICY DIALOGUE | TRAININGS FOR WOMEN
SIMARNA SINGH, NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL SINGAPORE: PEOPLE | PLANET | ECONOMIC VIABILITY | MITIGATION | ADAPTATION | LOW CARBON INVESTMENTS | SHIPPING FUTURE YOUTH ENVIRONMENT LEADERS

INDONESIA: CREATING GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICIES | BUDGET TAGGING | NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

WINFRIED WICKLEIN, ADB: PROJECT DESIGN | GENDER ASSESSMENT | POLICY DIALOGUE | ENERGY ACCESS-BETTER LEARNING

JOSE PAOLO DELGADO, DELBROS GROUP: WOMEN AS DATA MANAGERS | ADDED VALUE OF INCLUDING WOMEN IN BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY CAN BE A SPONGEBOARD FOR GENDER INITIATIVES

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Session 1.1: A Gender-Responsive Energy Transition: What it is and Why it Matters?

Veronica Mendizabal Joffre opened the session, setting the tone for a comprehensive discussion on gender-responsive energy transition. Joffre highlighted that the renewable energy market and climate financing is growing rapidly, and that the region has made good progress towards gender equality, but that more is needed. Gender equality can help accelerate the transition to net zero and the transition can also, if managed properly, help to accelerate gender equality.

H.E. Lenny Rosalyn, Deputy Minister, Gender Equality, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection for the Government of Indonesia highlighted the





importance of gender mainstreaming in the energy transition, emphasizing the gendered dimensions of climate change, including on women's labor and time burden; health and education; gender-based violence and safety.

Ibu Lenny underscored the need for solutions that can empower women through clean, accessible, and sustainable energy. She stressed that energy technology and policies should not be gender neutral or gender blind. She shared the active role of the Government of Indonesia in national and international initiatives on climate change, such as the support the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection provided to develop gender-responsive energy transition policies under the 2022 G20 Presidency.

Opening the panel discussion, the moderator **Susann Roth**, ADB Department of Communications and Knowledge Advisor, shared data on women having better scientific knowledge of climate change and the long history of women leading environmental movements. She pointed out that despite this, most boards of energy companies are male dominated. She asked the panelists: "Why does gender equality matter for the energy transition"?

Winfried Wicklein, Director General, Southeast Asia Regional Department, ADB, shared that women are less likely to benefit from the energy transition due to structural inequalities. He touched on several issues, including energy access and affordability, women's jobs, wage and education gaps, and women's leadership roles.

“Gender equality is part and parcel of the energy transition because it matters to its effectiveness, sustainability, and inclusiveness.”

– Winfried Wicklein

Soma Dutta, Lead Gender and Energy Transition Expert for ENERGIA, shared how women's work is often very precarious: they are concentrated in low-paying jobs in the informal sector, which prevents them from benefiting from the energy transition. The transition to renewables is likely to lead to 100 million jobs by 2050, so it is imperative that the social, cultural, and structural barriers to women's employment be addressed.

Cherrie Atilano, Founder and CEO of AGREIA Agricultural Systems International, shared her 26 years of experience in agriculture in the Philippines where she has seen the importance of the energy transition for women farmers. One example is that female farmers are more vulnerable to respiratory illnesses due to cooking and burning wood at home. To support female farmers through the energy transition, she recommended access to technology and education.





“I’ve never met a woman in my 26 years working with female farmers who was not hungry to learn.”

– Cherrie Atilano

Jose Paolo Delgado, President and CEO of Delbros Group, shared how his company is working towards gender equality. He realized that the culture of the company needs to change, so Delgado started looking at actively integrating women in non-traditional roles, training women to be data managers and to use computer systems. Delgado works with governments and fellow business groups to share best practices and nurture champions for women’s empowerment in the climate space. He exemplified what companies need to see — the added value of including women in business.

Molly Huang, Secretary General of Women in Renewables Alliance, asked us to imagine the brilliance, the untapped potential we could unleash by allowing 50% of our workforce to the table. Her organization’s mission is to see 30% of corporate middle and senior management filled by women by 2030. They do this through education, training, mentorship and internship and scholarship programs with corporations.

“Imagine the untapped potential we could unleash by allowing 50% of our workforce to the table. It’s not a question of why — but why not?”

– Molly Huang

At the second half of the moderated discussion, Roth posed another question: How important is female leadership and participation in the transformation of the economy? Dutta underscored the importance of networks among women to raise their voices in negotiations, while Delgado noted that there needs to be more investment in forest land areas, specifically in indigenous tribes where there is low representation of women in leadership.

Wicklein shared ADB’s initiatives to demonstrate the importance of dialogue between development banks and governments for a gender-responsive energy transition. In Indonesia, for example, ADB works with the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises in its aim to achieve the ambitious target of increasing women’s leadership position from 12% to 25% in two years, from 2022 to 2024.

Session 1.2: How do we make the energy transition gender-responsive?





Toru Kubo, Senior Director, Climate Change, Resilience and Environment, ADB, introduced the session's case studies and how youth, indigenous people, companies and countries are putting a gender-responsive energy transition into practice.

Filda Yusgiantoro, Chairperson, Purnomo Yusgiantoro Policy Research Center (PYC), underlined the importance of investing in women's human capital to accelerate the energy transition. Asian countries have significant potential for renewable energy, especially in geothermal energy, solar and hydropower. However, this potential has not been optimized yet. She provided recommendations in the areas of government policy, technological advancements, education and training, investment, and market demand.

Kamia Handayani, Executive Vice President for Energy Transition and Sustainability, PLN Indonesia State Electricity Corporation, detailed PLN's journey as a power company towards gender equality and diversity. Gender equality is mainstreamed through policies, ESG governance and guidelines. To track their progress on gender mainstreaming, PLN includes it in key performance indicators both internally and externally for its subsidiaries. PLN will launch the Gender Academy in December 2023 to involve and empower more female staff and will conduct a benchmarking of gender mainstreaming implementation, develop a gender roadmap, and advance their commitment in the workplace through EDGE certification.

Robeliza Halip, Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development, and Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples, shared how indigenous people have contributed the least in the climate crisis but bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change. She examined energy challenges for indigenous communities, including displacement and inadequate access to clean and affordable energy. She proposed ways forward to achieve the just transition, such as the recognition and support of indigenous-led renewable energy projects, ensuring indigenous peoples' direct access to funding and equitable benefit sharing, and promoting inclusive governance structures that recognize the role of indigenous women.

“Decision-making is not just about numbers, but the quality of leadership provided to indigenous women to raise their voice and decide.”

– Robeliza Halip

Nina Kolybashkina, Senior Social Development Specialist, Climate Investment Fund (CIF), World Bank, shared how as part of a push for MDB partners towards more innovative practices, CIF has created a framework for harnessing climate finance for women's climate leadership. Women are under-represented in national policy making,





despite evidence showing that when women participate in national policymaking, the resulting policies are more focused on climate, natural resource governance and conservation at the local level.

“Gender mainstreaming is not enough. We have to see more women leaders.”

– Nina Kolybashkina

Kolybashkina shared how the Accelerated Coal Transitions (ACT) Women-lead Coal Transitions (WOLCOT) engaged with key stakeholders in various countries, including India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, to build capacity on gender and inclusion in the energy sector and design services that promote women’s employment and entrepreneurship in the energy transition.

Simarna Singh, Social Entrepreneur, Sustainability Advocate, and Youth Leader National Youth Council Singapore shared that for sustainability and impact to take place, we need three dimensions: people, planet and economic viability. She provided insights on Singapore’s net zero climate ambitions and its implementation of carbon tax, a first in the region. As part of COP 28, youth in Singapore are being equipped with green skills by the government as they take the lead in climate action.

Rosemary Idem, Programme Manager, Women and Youth at the Forefront, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), discussed SEforAll’s goal to support women and youth to be the next leaders in the energy fields through three key pillars: advocacy, mainstreaming and professional development. They build global momentum for women and young people to participate meaningfully in coalition building for equitable and just transition, provide young women with the tools to inspire them to lead and contribute to policy dialogue.

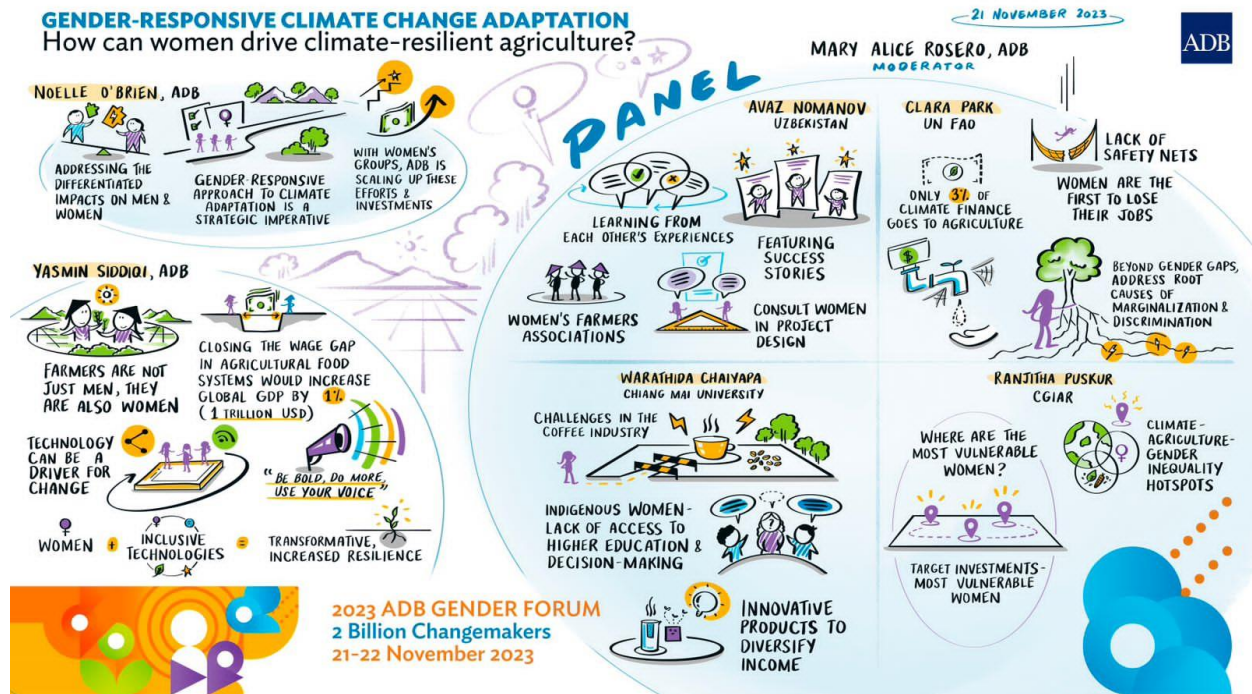
“Youth are not just beneficiaries. They are active participants.”

– Rosemary Idem

A follow-up Q&A, moderated by Toru Kubo, further explored these themes, with the discourse probing into investments in youth and youth-led programs, how the energy transition must be aligned with indigenous peoples’ development priorities and mobilizing dedicated private sector financing for gender equality.



THEME 2: GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



Session 2.1: How Can Women Drive Climate-Resilient Agriculture?

Noelle O'Brien, ADB Climate Change, Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Director, opened the session by laying the foundation for a dialogue on how women play a huge role in the labor force in agriculture, and how heat is a major global public risk, especially for women. Identifying the differentiated impact of heat on men and women is important for adaptation solutions. In collaboration with women's groups, ADB is scaling up efforts and investments for adaptation measures that address the nexus between climate and gender.

Yasmin Siddiqi, ADB Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Director, set the scene by underscoring the importance of placing women and gender at the forefront of climate change adaptation, particularly in agriculture and rural development. Women assume important roles throughout agri-food value chains to ensure food security and nutrition at community and household levels. If women had the same access to productive resources as men, it could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30% and help reduce food insecurity. Closing the wage gap in agricultural food systems would increase global GDP by 1% or nearly a trillion US dollars. This would reduce global food insecurity by about 2 percentage points and the number of food insecure people by 45 million. Siddiqi shared a video on an ADB project in Bangladesh that showcased the impact of building



the capacity of women farmers and including women in project design and implementation.

“Farmers are not just men, they are also women. What is so important is the inclusion of gender upfront in all of the solutions that we provide for climate change, adaptation, and building resilience.”

– Yasmin Siddiqi

She ended by sharing how technology can be a driver for change: “technology transcends across genders, so long as those who are developing it, designing it, and providing access, consider gender as part of their solutions [...] My equation is women plus inclusive technologies leads to food security and increased resilience”.

The panel, steered by **Mary Alice Rosero**, ADB Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), shared insights on women’s contribution to the horticulture value chain, challenges faced by small-scale women farmers, the important role of indigenous women in agriculture, and the use of data and research to inform gender transformative approaches and policies.

Avaz Nomanov, Project Coordinator, ISCAD (International Strategic Centre for Agri-Food Development) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Uzbekistan, shared how the Horticulture Value Chain Development Project, supported by ADB, reduced women’s poverty and enhanced their resilience in the face of climate-related challenges. Women took on 38% of jobs created through the project, surpassing the target of 20%. He shared some lessons learned that can be replicated by other projects, such as women-specific fund allocation, creation of effective decision-making bodies, training needs assessment to better understand women’s preferences for training location and time, providing childcare, and empowering women in governments’ project proposals.

Clara Park, Senior Gender Officer and Co-Lead, Gender Equality Division, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, shared the findings of FAO’s recent research “The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems”. The agriculture sector has great potential to revert climate injustice, but it also faces structural challenges, particularly gender inequality. A third of agrifood systems workers in Asia and the Pacific are women, with that number going up to 50% in certain countries. Yet, they are marginalized in low skilled jobs with no social security or safety nets. The report showed the need to move beyond looking at gender gaps to looking at the root causes of marginalization and discrimination, such as gender social norms, that keep women from fulfilling their potential.





The report recommends policy interventions on gender transformative approaches, changing discriminatory social norms and fostering positive masculinity. These approaches are cost effective, proven, and very effective at the community and household levels, but need to be brought to scale. Another recommendation is the importance of closing gender gaps in access and control over land. Access and control over land has multiple benefits, including access to services, resiliency of investments, and reduction of gender-based violence in some cases. Finally, social policies that promote access to childcare are very important, as the burden of care is hampering women's engagement in wage employment.

Warathida Chaiyapa, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University, discussed the challenges faced by vulnerable small-scale farmers, such as indigenous women farmers in the coffee industry, and solutions that address these challenges. Gender inequality is entrenched in the coffee industry in Thailand: ethnic women have lower access to higher education, and do not have the decision-making authority on how to use the income from selling coffee beans. To overcome this, indigenous women used innovative and creative tactics such as diversifying their income by creating new coffee products.

“Climate change is the great multiplier of pre-existing gender inequality.”

– Warathida Chaiyapa

Ranjitha Puskur, India Representative, CGIAR and International Rice Research Institute discussed how to target investment towards the most vulnerable women by looking at hotspots with the intersection of climate hazards, women's exposure to these hazards, and the impact of these on their adaptive capacity. Puskur zoomed in on a few of these hotspots in Asia and sub-national crop hotspot maps in Bangladesh, where CGIAR has done an in-depth situational analysis, looking at how climate change is influencing the food systems and gender inequality and vice versa.

She also highlighted the role of the private sector in driving innovation and implementing sustainable solutions. CGIAR recently conducted a review of how gender-responsive private sector engagement is in climate smart agriculture. Often it tends to be a very short-term commitment tied to their corporate social responsibility goals, rather than a long-term business strategy. There is a lot of opportunity for the private sector to identify good practices, specifically from other regions such as Africa, and replicate these practices in our context.





Siddiqi closed the session by emphasizing the importance of participatory approaches and engaging with communities in development projects, as well as working with men and boys as part of behavioral and social change.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
Adapting to Increasing Heat Through Gender-Responsive Solutions
21 NOVEMBER 2023

OPENING ZONIBEL WOODS, ADB
2-3 BILLION PEOPLE COULD BE VULNERABLE TO HEAT WAVES
WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD
HEAT AFFECTS WOMEN DIFFERENTLY

SETTING THE SCENE BUSHRA AFREEN, ARSHT ROCK, BANGLADESH
16,000 WOMEN
5,500 TREES PLANTED
WORKING TOGETHER ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
HEAT DOES NOT AFFECT EVERYONE EQUALLY
"NOT JUST VICTIMS... ESSENTIAL TO CREATING THE MOST SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS"

PANEL ANA BONELL, LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE (LHTM)
PREGNANT WOMEN AS VULNERABLE GROUP TO HEAT STRESS
GAPS IN RESEARCH
NEED FOR EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS
BRING BACK BLUE SPACES & GREEN SPACES

ABHIYANT TIWARI, NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INDIA
JODHPUR
RECOGNIZED HEAT AS A PROBLEM
HEAT ACTION PLAN
EXPOSURE TO INDOOR & OUTDOOR HEAT
EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS
FINANCE IS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION
BETTER HEAT GOVERNANCE IS NEEDED

LAXMI SHARMA, ADB
WATER POINTS
ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES
INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN PROJECTS
SENSE OF OWNERSHIP
WE NEED TRANSFORMATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

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Session 2.2: Adapting to Increasing Heat Through Gender-Responsive Solutions

Zonibel Woods, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), opened the session by noting that in Asia and the Pacific, 2-3 billion people could be highly vulnerable to heat waves, and 2023 was the warmest year on record. While heat stress impacts everyone, it impacts women differently. This gendered impact should inform adaptation measures.

Bushra Afreen, Chief Heat Officer, North Dhaka, Bangladesh, Arsht-Rock, set the scene by sharing the story of empowering women in informal settlements in Dhaka, an urban heat island, to become agents of change. In 2023, Dhaka experienced the hottest day in six decades and summer weather for over eight months. While heat can be dangerous to everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. Women, children and people with pre-existing health conditions are physiologically more vulnerable. Others are vulnerable because they don't have access to cooling. Women living in informal settlements face systemic challenges making them more vulnerable.





“The people who are most affected by heat are not just victims. They have critical knowledge that is so essential to creating the most sustainable solutions”.

– Bushra Afreen

To address these challenges, Afreen developed and coordinated a unified response to heat stress, including women in developing nature-based solutions, such as planting 5,500 trees in the settlements, and ensuring they were agents for change with a seat at the table from the very beginning.

As the first heat officer in North Dhaka, Afreen also shared key challenges she faced, such as the lack of collaboration between private sector, academia and government, presence of entrenched patriarchal norms, and the lack of data on women. She hopes that in the future data will be collected on excess deaths from heat.

“I’m dreaming of the day that the national government and all the towns will have a heat adaptation plan.”

– Bushra Afreen

Ana Bonell, Associate Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, shared that pregnant women are a particularly vulnerable group, and heat affects both the mother and the unborn child. When women are exposed to heat during pregnancy, the risk of severe life-threatening conditions such as bleeding and sepsis increases by 20%, and does the risk of miscarriage, a pre-term birth or stillbirth. Unfortunately, research in this area has been neglected, including the evidence base on effective interventions to reduce risks. More work needs to be done to understand what an overall package of care could look like to ensure women are protected.

“The only way we are going to protect women and children is to stop burning fossil fuels”.

– Ana Bonell

Abhiyant Tiwari, Lead - Health and Climate Resilience, Natural Resources Defense Council, India stressed that key stakeholders, particularly the government, need to recognize heat as a challenge. The first heat detection plan was launched in 2013 in India, and self-help groups worked to ensure that it was implemented in the most marginalized communities. However, a review of the heat action plans in India found that most of the plans were on paper only and there were no financial mechanisms linked to the





implementation of the plans. Globally, the majority of the countries around the world don't recognize heat as a disaster.

Laxmi Sharma, ADB Senior Urban Development Specialist, shared her experience in working on project designs for heat stress management in Nepal. Including women in projects gave them a sense of ownership and opportunities to network, leading to increased social capital. Project level interventions tend to have a limited impact, so transformational interventions are also needed within urban local bodies as they have a mandate to provide basic services to the population.

Jinha Kim, ADB Gender Specialist (Climate Change), closed the session by highlighting the remaining gaps to be addressed, including the need for continued efforts to collect more data and conduct more research, for enabling environments where women can utilize their inherited knowledge and engage in climate-resilient agriculture, and for increased leadership of women in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation policies.

If you haven't yet, please share your feedback on the sessions through these [evaluation forms](#).

**See you again tomorrow for another series of engaging sessions!
Check out our [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), and share the posts!**

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[#2BillionChangemakers](#)

Sincerely,
2023 ADB Gender Forum Team

