

Ensuring a just transition:
**Mainstreaming
Gender into
Climate Action**



Gender and Climate Change

Due to their distinct social roles, climate change impacts women and men differently, with women often disproportionately affected. As a result of persistent gender-based discrimination, women frequently have limited access to financial and natural resources, training, and technology, leaving them with less capabilities and skills to adapt to the consequences of climate change. At the same time, the roles and responsibilities generally ascribed to women in their households and communities provide an opportunity for them to act as agents of change by contributing diverse and critical solutions to climate change challenges. However, women's potential remains largely untapped, as they often lack access to climate change policies and decision-making processes due to social stereotypes that devalue their knowledge.

UN Women's engagement

→ **Ensuring inclusion of gender considerations across climate change response**

Each project, strategy or law addressing climate change should take into account the different perspectives, roles, needs, priorities and interests of men and women. To that end, gender statistics, gender analysis and gender responsive budgeting should be deployed to determine the impact that the planned climate response might have on women and men, but also to determine interventions, which could possibly improve gender equality and the position of women.

→ **Increasing participation and representation of women in climate-related decision-making**

Efforts directed towards greater visibility, utilization and evaluation of women's knowledge and skills are needed to increase women's participation and leadership in climate decision-making. While women should be equipped with the skills and capabilities to lead on climate action.

UN Women works on four key interlinked priorities to ensure a just transition that does not leave women behind and makes use of their skills and knowledge:

1 

Raising awareness of gender inequalities regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2 

Guaranteeing the capacity of stakeholders to integrate gender equality considerations into climate change action.

3 

Ensuring women's access to economic opportunities presented by the transition to green and climate neutral economies.

4 

Empowering women to be leaders on climate action at all levels.

Overall outcome

Climate actions will be more efficient, effective, responsive and deliver broader benefits when the perspectives, skills and capabilities of women and men are taken into account. Understanding gendered differences in labour roles, energy and infrastructure use, and access to resources is key to developing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies. There is mounting evidence that women hold different views of sustainability and climate change than men and are more likely to undertake actions that they believe will benefit the environment. Thus, empowering women in their communities can contribute to climate resilience and improving gender equality has been found to help achieve better environmental governance. Therefore, UN Women believes that the more systematic involvement of women in both planning and implementation of climate action can significantly contribute to the achieving of ambitious climate targets and in turn considers climate action as an important potential accelerator of gender equality and women's empowerment.



UN Women Serbia has developed a framework of activities to support the work of the Ministry of Environmental Protection on gender mainstreaming of climate smart actions and a [Training handbook on Gender and Climate Change](#).

Under the GRB regional project, UN Women offices in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have developed and piloted methodology for assessing the access of women to climate financing. The methodology combines climate finance tracking and gender responsive budgeting at national level, while initiatives aimed at leveraging co-benefits between climate change and gender equality are piloted at local level in both countries.

UN Women Serbia developed **Survey on Household Waste Management** in 2018 that assessed the gender differences in behaviors and attitudes related to the environment, waste treatment and recycling. The data showed women are more interested in climate sensitive actions.

Rural women in Serbia built their capacities in **organic vegetable growing** and food processing through the implementation of UN Women **concept of green economy and social entrepreneurship**.






UN Women Serbia implemented awareness-raising campaign **“Be The Agent Of Change In Your Environment”**, that targeted specifically women for individual actions to increase recycling. Findings of household waste management survey were disseminated through a **digital media campaign and a public awareness raising event organized jointly with IKEA.**

UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina is supporting local stakeholders with the tools and instruments to implement environmentally-sound sustainable and climate smart practices by promoting sustainable and climate-smart farming and agri-food technologies.

UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina is supporting development of climate smart business and climate related resilience of women-owned business and women entrepreneurs to improve socio-economic position of rural women.

Knowledge of civil servants in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been raised through the support of UN Women initiative focusing on EU gender equality principles, particularly on gender mainstreaming in the climate and environment sector of the IPA III programming processes.

The behavioral change campaign **“I Say NO to Single-Use Plastic”**, implemented by UN Women Serbia, targeted specifically women to **decrease consumption of single-use plastic.** It included a challenge to stop utilizing single-use plastic products for 7 days.



With the support of UN Women, young activists in Albania came together to develop a Call to Action on gender, youth and climate change manifesto that includes a series of concrete recommendations to promote gender-responsive solutions to climate change that are youth-led. The Call to Action captures the keen interest of young people in Albania in ensuring that national policies and programmes on climate change and the environment address the demands, needs and vulnerabilities of women and youth, and recognize their readiness to respond to climate change and environmental disasters.

The first ever gender sensitive inventory of particulate matter (PM) emissions was developed by UN Women Serbia through the national survey on energy poverty, carried by RES Foundation.

UN Women Kosovo¹ Office has substantially contributed to capacity building of women in energy and gender sensitive energy policymaking in Kosovo, through supporting advocacy efforts, conferences, and visibility of work of the Association of Women in Energy Sector of Kosovo and mainstreaming gender in the Action Plan for the Energy Strategy (2022-2025).

¹ All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

