

CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

May, 2025



Photo: UN Women Europe and Central Asia

Where we work

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye.

Implementing organization/partners:

UNDP, WFP

Funding Partners:

Canada, France/AFD, European Union, SIDA.

Contribution to UN SDGs

SDG 5, SDG 13, SDG 16.

OUR SOLUTION

A gender-responsive approach is crucial for effective climate action. UN Women serves those furthest behind and most marginalized first, anchored firmly in a human-rights based approach:

- Promoting gender equality and women's voice, agency, leadership and participation in climate and environmental action, including across intergovernmental negotiations, by harnessing their unique expertise.
- Increasing funding and support for women's climate and environmental action, particularly to women's civil society, grassroots organizations, and including in conflict and fragile-affected settings.
- Investing in gender-responsive programming to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on women and girls and enhance their capacity to secure climate, environmental and disaster resilient livelihoods.
- Expanding the evidence-base on the connections between climate change and gender inequality, including by implementing surveys and utilizing non-traditional data sources.
- Advocating for gender-responsive just transitions and supporting the development of policies and programmes to improve women's access to decent green jobs
- Promoting integrated policy frameworks and programming for women's agency in climate security and environmental peacebuilding to address interlinked climate change impacts, security risks and gender inequality.
- Developing and implementing targeted strategies to address the distinct vulnerabilities, concerns and priorities of women environmental human rights defenders, ensuring their effective protection.

THE ISSUE

Women and girls bear the brunt of the climate crisis, being exposed to displacement, heightened food insecurity, poverty and gender-based violence. [UN Women projections](#) indicate that by 2050, climate change may push up to 158.3 million more women and girls into poverty - 16 million more than the total number of men and boys.

Climate change amplifies existing gender inequalities and threatens women's and girls' rights, livelihoods, health and wellbeing in the Europe and Central Asia region. Key elements of the climate-gender nexus in ECA are: an increasing care burden on women through climate impacts (i.e. in Tajikistan, where women bear the primary burden for water collection in a majority of households), gender gaps in green jobs (i.e. in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only 10.4% of specialized environmental roles are held by women), continued under-representation of women in climate policy making, and limitations in data availability on these gender imbalances.

WHY ARE WE BEST PLACED TO TACKLE THE ISSUE

Building on its longstanding work on climate change and environmental degradation across its triple mandate, UN Women is articulating an integrated and strategic approach to the gender, climate and environment nexus.

UN Women is able to secure the co-benefits of gender equality and climate justice for sustainable development with women's and girls' rights, resilience, and leadership at the center, by building on the organization's expertise on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. UN Women is deploying its convening power and wide networks, works with partners in the UN system, among governments and civil society, which can support joint initiatives with the requisite expertise.

KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Developed a [finance tracking methodology](#), for financial flows targeting gender and climate simultaneously.
- Conducted an innovative study, which for the first time recognizes different effects of energy policies on women and men in Serbia, including energy poverty.
- Increased the capacity of the Serbian ministries for environment and for energy on gender responsive planning.
- Produced sub-regional approaches for a gender-just energy transition in the Western Balkans and for water security in Central Asia.
- Created platforms and spaces for knowledge exchange, for example on women's role in climate action and sustainable agriculture at the [Regional Forum for Development 2024](#).

EMERGING CHALLENGES

- **Recognition of and action on the climate-care nexus:** Evidence on the increase in women's and girls' unpaid care, domestic and communal work driven by climate change and environmental degradation is mounting. However, major climate and environmental policies

at different levels do not contain specific mentions or mandates on the issue of care, including in their gender action plans.

- **Implementation gaps:** While climate change policies and reporting are increasingly gender responsive, an emerging challenge are the significant gaps in implementation which remain, including in the monitoring and evaluation, and establishment of institutional mechanisms.

LOOKING AHEAD: UN WOMEN'S STRATEGIC APPROACH

Under the new Global Strategic Plan 2026-2029 UN Women is strengthening its work on climate action by promoting women's access to climate finance, technologies, and natural resources, and by supporting their participation in the green and blue economies. Special emphasis is placed on ensuring women's leadership in climate-related decision-making processes, securing rights over land and resources, and advancing gender-responsive approaches to climate justice and just transitions.

Key pathways for UN Women to accelerate gender equality through climate action in ECA region are:

- Normative leadership and support to advance gender-responsive climate and environmental normative and policy frameworks, including national and local policy advocacy and support, across key areas like climate security, and women's economic empowerment.
- Gender-responsive climate and environmental programming through GEAs on Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green/Blue Economies and Women's Resilience to Disasters, including supporting adaptation through climate-resilient agriculture, women's work in the care economy (paid and unpaid) and women in sustainable food systems and food systems transformation.
- Gender-responsive climate and environmental finance. UN Women will seek both to increase access to climate and environment funding for women and their organizations and to advocate for sustainable finance mechanisms that are gender responsive.



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