

GENDER

JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS:

Principles and Indicators, Volume 1

Women
Feminism
Gender
Equality Inclusion Mindset
Recognition Justice Diversity
Empowerment Revolution Action
Liberty Respect climate
Meaningful Leadership Participation
Representative
Intersectionality
Decision-making
Engagement
Rights

GENDER-JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: PRINCIPLES AND INDICATORS, VOLUME 1

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Disclaimer

“Gender” encompasses a wider identity than we deal with here - primarily the power structures and relations that discriminate against women and girls. But with more data available it can cover the entire continuum of gendered identities such as the SOGIE (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities/ Expressions). The findings of this paper is entirely Nepal based. Any part of this publication may be cited or utilized in any form- electronic or mechanical including photocopying for information storage purposes without prior permission of Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) provided the source is duly acknowledged.

GENDER

JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: Principles and Indicators, Volume 1



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Background



The climate crisis is not “gender neutral”. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted due to the compounded effects of historical inequalities and situational context, which climate change further exacerbates. Socio-economic factors and reliance on natural resources increases their vulnerability. For example, women are more affected during floods as they often stay behind to care for dependents, lack survival skills like swimming, and face restricted mobility (Ahmed & Fajber, 2009; Sultana, 2014). In patriarchal societies, social norms and power dynamics further limit women’s ability to adapt to or mitigate climate impacts (Bee, 2013; Ahmed & Fajber, 2009).

Recognizing these challenges, Prakriti Resource Centre (PRC) and Tewa in Nepal, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Actions (GAGGA), initiated discussions in 2022 to develop a framework for gender-just climate solutions. This initiative aimed to address gender in climate actions and ensure women’s active involvement in developing effective solutions. The resulting discussion paper presented nine key principles for gender-just climate solutions (PRC, 2022). These principles do not directly align with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), which aims to enhance adaptation efforts and resilience, as well as the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, which underlines the need for more funding effective action on adaptation, currently underfunded compared to mitigation. However, through this discourse, PRC and Tewa aim to develop indicators that can contribute to mapping the GGA indicators, making it more gender-responsive.

The GGA, part of the Paris Agreement, aims to elevate global adaptation efforts through evidencebased guidance inclusive country-driven processes, support to stakeholders in climate negotiations, and emphasizes pragmatic Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system, with equal focus on adaptation and mitigation. Gender considerations within the GGA are crucial for inclusivity, addressing gender disparities, and ensuring adaptation actions empower women and deliver sustainable outcomes (Beauchamp and Józefiak, (2023). Gender just climate solutions are necessary to move away from treating women as vulnerable victims, positioning them instead as active agents of change. These solutions involve building environments where women can lead, own, and devise responses to climate challenges with an emphasis on meaningful participation and decision-making by gender-diverse people.

Current national goals often lack measurable outcomes and accountability mechanisms. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021 – 2050, which outlines priority programs across nine thematic sectors, sets targets but lacks the indicators necessary to track progress as highlighted in the National Climate Change Policy (2019). This paper proposes gender-responsive metrics to fill that gap, ensuring effective monitoring and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 on climate action.

Principles for Gender-Just Climate Solutions:

1. Conducting Gender Assessments: Conduct thorough gender analyses to understand different impacts on men and women.
2. Addressing Vulnerabilities: Ensure solutions address specific vulnerabilities faced by women and girls.



3. **Participation and Leadership:** Prioritize women’s meaningful participation and leadership in decisionmaking in climate initiatives.
4. **Information Dissemination:** Ensure women have access to accurate climate information and solutions.
5. **Gender Responsive Budgeting:** Allocate resources to support gender-related actions.
6. **Equitable Benefit Sharing:** Guarantee equal benefits for women and girls from climate actions.
7. **Gender Sensitive Actions:** Address structural barriers and promote equal opportunities without reinforcing stereotypes.
8. **Accountability:** Create mechanisms to safeguard women’s rights and ensure transparency.
9. **Transformative Change:** Empower women to shift power relations and gender roles in their communities.

Out of the above nine principles, this paper focuses on the four key ones. The remaining five principles, closely related to these, will be covered in subsequent publications released over the coming years. Drawing on insights from the PRC, Tewa, and GAGGA discussion paper, this paper outlines both quantitative and qualitative indicators related to the four principles to ensure climate actions are responsive to women’s unique needs and challenges.

Indicators for Measurement



The indicators were developed through extensive dialogue with stakeholders to reflect both institutional and community-level perspectives on climate adaptation. Drawing from approaches like the UNICEFUNFPA framework on child marriage indicators, this process ensures that indicators are context-specific and grounded in community realities.

A. Quantitative Indicators: Quantitative indicators are essential for providing objective and measurable evidence of progress in addressing women’s climate needs. By gathering numerical data on resource allocation, participation rates, and access to information, stakeholders can effectively track changes, assess intervention impacts, and evaluate progress. This data-driven approach ensures that climate actions are based on concrete evidence, allowing for more targeted, effective measures to address the unique challenges women and girls face in climate adaptation and resilience.

B. Qualitative Indicators: Qualitative indicators add depth to quantitative measures by capturing the experiences, challenges, and successes of women in climate adaptation. They align with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) by supporting iterative, context-sensitive approaches, especially for vulnerable populations. Engaging local governments, civil society organizations, and direct stakeholders in these indicators ensures validation and fosters ownership. Together, qualitative and quantitative indicators enable a more comprehensive evaluation of resilience efforts, enhancing equity and sustainability in climate adaptation.

The indicators are discussed at various levels-- Local Government Units (LGUs), Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs), direct stakeholders, etc. to foster validation and shared ownership. Incorporating qualitative indicators into the GGA framework enables a more holistic measurement of resilience and sustainability, supporting a more meaningful evaluation of climate adaptation initiatives.





Principle 1: Conducting Gender Assessments



This principle emphasizes the importance of conducting gendered assessments to understand the impacts of climate change on different genders. Recognizing and responding to these varied experiences can enhance resilience and ensure that women’s specific needs are addressed. Integrating gender analyses into climate actions ensure these are both sensitive to and responsive to women’s unique challenges. Insights from PRC, Tewa, and GAGGA discussions are essential for developing climate solutions that address the gendered dimensions of climate impacts.

Introduction

Gender assessments are essential to develop climate solutions that address disparities and vulnerabilities specific to women and marginalized groups. These assessments help identify and respond to the specific needs of women and marginalized groups through inclusive and impactful interventions. Since women face compounded challenges due to socio-economic roles, caregiving responsibilities, and restricted mobility during climate disasters (UN Women, 2022), comprehensive gender assessments can lead to solutions that are both equitable and sustainable.

Effective gender assessments capture the lived experiences of women to genuinely integrate their voices into decision-making, moving beyond meeting quotas. A holistic assessment should also account for the intersectionality of gender with other factors, such as health, geography, caste, ethnicity and socioeconomic background, ensuring the needs of the most marginalized are addressed. However, existing methodologies like Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) have limitations, often addressing general women’s needs without specific attention to marginalized women. To fully capture these diverse experiences, gender assessments must consider intersecting identities to develop solutions inclusive of all.

Good practices for executing comprehensive gender assessment

The following practices discussed in the PRC-Tewa stakeholder dialogue were identified for comprehensive gender assessments:

a. Moving beyond stereotypical perceptions

Effective gender assessments go beyond stereotypical assumptions about women's needs. For instance, in a community where livelihood training was introduced women preferred training in repairing newly introduced induction stoves over traditional skills (e.g., sewing or cooking), challenging preconceived notions and demonstrating the importance of tailored interventions.

b. Engaging in community-led dialogues

Community-led dialogues help identify genuine needs and concerns by minimizing external influences and requirements. A case in point is Practical Action's approach that involved focus group discussions (FGDs) led by local social mobilizers, with external representatives observing. This method encouraged open dialogue, bringing out gender specific concerns that might otherwise remain unrevealed.

c. Using mixed data approaches

Combining both quantitative and qualitative data enriches assessments. For example, a mixed-method assessment of women's experiences during floods in Madhesh Province used quantitative data to document damages and qualitative insights to know how factors like clothing affected survival, capturing a fuller picture of the community's realities.

d. Practicing implementer reflexivity

Self-reflection among researchers and field workers is crucial for effective gender assessments. Continuously reassessing whether assessments are addressing the needs of those most affected helps ensure marginalized voices are prioritized, with implementer remaining aware of their roles and power dynamics. (Hesse-Biber, 2012)

e. Redefining vulnerability contextually

Vulnerability should be defined contextually, considering specific circumstances and identities. Focused assessments on themes like health or economic participation, supported by data collection technologies and local women's organizations, help capture the nuanced needs of diverse groups.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES FOR CONDUCTING GENDER ASSESSMENT IN NEPAL

In executing comprehensive gender assessments in Nepal several barriers are encountered:

- a. Quantitative data limitations:** Heavy reliance of national plans and policies on quantitative data overlooks essential qualitative insights needed to understand gender-specific vulnerabilities, especially in livelihoods impacted by even minor climate events.
- b. Depth and scope of assessments:** Intersectional factors such as sex, age, disability, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status add complexity. Balancing inclusivity with practicality often becomes challenging, raising questions about the assessment's scope.



- c. Accuracy and representation:** Ensuring collected data accurately represents marginalized groups is difficult. Blanket approaches can obscure diverse needs, placing responsibility on implementers to continuously advocate for more tailored and representative data.
- d. Policy and resource constraints:** Limited time and resources along with frequent changes in government bodies affects the thoroughness of gender assessments and makes it difficult to institutionalize the practice. Insufficient methods, tools and training exacerbate these challenges.
- e. Institutional and Capacity Barriers:** Capacity building for institutions and mobilizers is often lacking. Frontline workers may lack skills and resources needed for comprehensive gender assessments, especially at government level.

Indicators for Measurement

A. Quantitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Inclusion and representation To ensure diverse perspectives, including those of marginalized groups, are represented in the assessment process. This balance is crucial for capturing a comprehensive view of needs and experiences.	1.1. Gender ratio: Proportion of men and women participating, targeting at least 50 percent female representation or a ratio matching the population's composition.
	1.2. Representation of marginalized groups: Proportion of marginalized group participants (e.g., 30 percent or more) including people with disabilities, dalit and indigenous women.
	1.3. Roles in decision-making: Proportion and/or extent of involvement of women and marginalized groups in decision-making.
2. Access and control of resources To measure how resources are distributed and controlled, highlighting whether women and marginalized groups have equitable access. This helps to identify gaps and address disparities in resource allocation.	2.1. Resource allocation: Tracking distribution of resources across gender and marginalized groups.
	2.2. Wellbeing and cultural impact: Measure of discrimination or challenges faced, assessing cultural norms' impact on wellbeing.
3. Justice metrics For assessment of fairness in various aspects of the assessment process, including distribution, procedures, recognition, and restitution. Ensures that justice is served in how needs and contributions are addressed.	3.1. Distributive justice: Percentage of resources allocated to marginalized groups, ensuring fair distribution with cultural context.
	3.2. Procedural justice: Percentage of marginalized groups (women, indigenous people, and people with disabilities) in decision-making during planning and participation.
	3.3. Recognition justice: Measure marginalized groups' specific needs and contributions acknowledged and addressed in reports or plans.
	3.4. Restorative justice: Number of Projects addressing and repairing historical and situational injustices towards women and marginalized groups.



<p>4. Integration and implementation For evaluation of how well assessment findings are incorporated into policies and actions. This ensures that recommendations are acted upon and that interventions effectively target identified needs.</p>	4.1. Integration of findings: Proportion of assessment findings incorporated into adaptation plans (e.g., 80 percent or a 0-10 scale of integration).
	4.2. Budget allocation: Percentage of the budget targeting identified needs and proportion of interventions reaching the targeted groups.
	4.3. Government response: Frequency of gender assessment data references in government policies, regulations or provisions and percentage of new policies with gendersensitive climate responses.
	4.4. Action plan integration: 4.4.a Percentage of identified needs addressed in action/ annual plans (e.g., 10 out of 15 needs).
<p>5. Secondary data utilization To assesses how secondary data is used to inform the assessment process. Ensures that existing information is effectively leveraged to provide a more comprehensive understanding.</p>	5.1. Utilization of secondary data: Proportion of relevant secondary data sources used; frequency of references to secondary data in assessment findings and reports.
<p>6. Feedback mechanism For measuring the effectiveness of systems for receiving and addressing feedback. Ensures that concerns and complaints are appropriately handled and integrated into the assessment process.</p>	6.1. Complaint feedback mechanism: Number of complaints addressed; degree of satisfaction rate with the feedback mechanism through surveys or follow-up assessments.

B. Qualitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
<p>1. Compounded vulnerability Reflects both longstanding and situational vulnerabilities, providing a nuanced understanding of specific challenges faced by individuals. This helps in addressing deeply rooted and context-specific issues.</p>	1.1. Assessment of the dual layers of vulnerability, including historical discrimination and current situational factors.
	1.2. Identification of contextual barriers to power and control in decision-making processes.
<p>2. Institutional readiness Measures the preparedness of institutions to conduct thorough gender assessments, ensuring they have the necessary capacity and commitment to deliver impactful, gender responsive climate solutions.</p>	2.1. Evaluation of institutional preparedness to conduct gender assessments, focusing on readiness, capacity and commitment across institutional tiers.
	2.2. Number of staff trained in gender sensitivity in order to track the proportion of staff who have received gender sensitivity training and the number of gender-related training sessions conducted within the institution or project.




3. Subjective indicators Captures perceptions and attitudes related to gender assessments, such as confidence and perceived importance, provides insights into the process's acceptance and effectiveness among stakeholders.	3.1. Assessment of the quality and alignment of actions among institutions and implementers for integrating gender considerations into planning and implementation processes.
	3.2. Evaluation of stakeholder perceptions regarding the relevance of gender assessments.
	3.3. Assessment of the degree of confidence among women in voicing their perspectives during assessments.
	3.4. Evaluation of women's sense of inclusion and recognition based on their qualitative feedback.
4. Capturing social and cultural norms Examines how harmful norms affect individuals' wellbeing, offering insights into the social and cultural factors shaping their experiences, which can influence assessment outcomes.	4.1. Exploration of how harmful social and cultural norms affect the physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing of individuals.
	4.2. Investigation into the context and practices that reinforce harmful norms.
5. Feedback integration Measures the incorporation of key insights and suggestions from stakeholders to refine and improve the assessment process.	5.1. Analysis of how feedback from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) is incorporated into the assessment process and its influence on subsequent actions and decision-making.
6. Intersectional themes Evaluates whether the assessment captures the complexity of intersecting identities and experiences, ensuring diverse factors affecting individuals are recognized.	6.1. Assessment of the gender assessment's ability to capture intersectional themes through qualitative feedback and thematic analysis.
7. Gender accountability and inclusive planning Ensures gender-sensitive mechanisms are embedded in broader organizational and community planning processes, supporting an inclusive approach.	7.1. Evaluation of community awareness and accessibility to complaint mechanisms.
	7.2. Measurement of gender assessment findings' integration into annual plans and other strategic documents.
	7.3. Confirmation of comprehensive Gender Audits or Assessments that consider intersectionality and diversity.

A gendered approach to climate assessments involves more than identifying vulnerabilities. It demands a holistic understanding of how these vulnerabilities intersect with various socio-economic and cultural factors. This inclusive approach is essential for designing interventions that not only address specific needs but also consider the unique circumstances of women and other marginalized groups. Gender assessments should integrate quantitative metrics to track inclusion, resource distribution and justice, along with qualitative insights to assess compounded vulnerabilities, institutional readiness, social norms, and feedback.

By using community-led dialogues, mixed-method approaches, and ongoing reviews of effectiveness, these assessments can ensure climate solutions that are gender-just. Closing identified gaps- limitations of quantitative data and the need for accurate representation- enhances the execution and outcomes of gender assessments. This comprehensive approach supports climate solutions that are inclusive, empowering vulnerable populations as active participants in addressing climate challenges and advancing gender equality in the context of climate action.





Principle 2: Addressing Women's Climate Needs



This principle emphasizes the importance of addressing women's specific climate needs through an intersectional approach. Recognizing women's diverse vulnerabilities allows climate solutions to enhance their resilience. This principle advocates for actions that acknowledge factors like geography, occupation, and social status, providing a comprehensive framework for addressing women's climate concerns.

Introduction

Women, particularly those in marginalized and socio-economically disadvantaged communities, face disproportionate climate impacts due to their dependency on natural resources and their stereotypical roles. For example, extreme weather events are 14 times more fatal for women and children due to limited access to information, mobility, decision-making, and resources. Women and girls make up four out of five people displaced by climate change impacts (United Nations, n.d.). Factors such as geography, occupation, social status, and ethnicity further exacerbate these vulnerabilities, underscoring the need for climate solutions that cater to women's specific needs.

In Nepal, where agriculture employs about 60 percent of the workforce (Chhetri & Ghimire, 2023), women disproportionately bear securing food, water and fuel. As primary providers and agricultural workers, their workloads intensify during periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women, forcing some women to leave schools to assist. These challenges demonstrate the importance of climate solutions that support women's resilience and ensure their well-being in changing climate. (UN Women, 2022)

Addressing women's climate needs is essential for achieving inclusive, effective, and sustainable solutions. Shifting the focus from treating women as passive victims to recognizing them as active agents of resilience enhances the success of climate initiatives. Ignoring women's needs perpetuates gender inequalities and diminishes the impact of climate initiatives. The following example illustrates the benefits of an inclusive approach in addressing gender-specific needs.

Good practice: Enhancing Community Resilience through Women-Centered Solutions

Recognizing women's climate needs contributes to sustainable and equitable solutions as women manage critical resources such as water, fuel and food, directly that are affected by climate variability. For instance, in Kavre, Nepal, women's groups developed a home-based dairy enterprise that diversifies income source, reduces dependency on climate-sensitive agriculture, and enhances household food security. This initiative underscores how economic opportunities and market access enable women to lead climate-adaptive practices that ultimately benefit the entire community (Nepali Times, 2022).

Addressing women's climate needs also encourages innovation and effectiveness in climate action. In Kuikel Thumka village, women's access to climate information through mobile technology has improved farming and natural resource management. In Karekhola, the Green Karnali project introduced tools like drip irrigation, tunnel farming, and vermicomposting, reducing women's labor and boosting. Such interventions not only advance women's leadership but also foster community resilience (Ibid).

Empowering women with resources and knowledge facilitates impactful climate activism. For example, the Himalayan Climate Initiative (HCI) supports young women in climate advocacy, while the HamriBahini initiative enables women from low-income groups to produce and sell cloth bags, reducing plastic pollution and offering sustainable livelihoods (Nepali Times, 2022). Integrating women's needs in climate solutions benefits entire communities, strengthening resilience and adaptation efforts.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING WOMEN'S CLIMATE NEEDS

In Nepal, addressing women's climate needs is complex due to intersectional challenges, particularly for rural women, whose lives are deeply affected by climate change, given their roles in agriculture, water management, and fuel collection. These daily realities are **interconnected and difficult to capture** in quantitative targets, indicators, or policies, making effective, measurable interventions a challenge.

Existing policies often lack a comprehensive mechanism and **institutions** responsible for various sectors lack proper coordination, leading to fragmented solutions that miss the interconnected needs of women. **Societal structures** in Nepal, especially in rural areas further marginalize women, limiting their access to resources, decision-making, and economic opportunities. The **lack of gender-disaggregated data** also hinders targeted interventions. Improved - data collection, including on marginalized groups like Dalits¹, indigenous women and differently abled women, is crucial for developing effective solutions.

Nepal's limited engagement in global gender-responsive initiatives (e.g., COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership) highlights a gap in adopting comprehensive, gender-responsive approaches, potentially hindering progress (Dhungel, 2023).

¹ Dalits are people from the lower castes in the caste system, which is rooted in Hinduism. In Nepal and many South Asian countries, the caste system creates social segregation and discrimination. Dalits, who make up about 13.8 percent of Nepal's population, are often marginalized and oppressed due to their lower status in this hierarchical system (Amnesty International, 2024).



Indicators for Measurement

A. Quantitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Disaggregated data on climate impacts and needs	1.1. Percentage of climate impact studies with gender-disaggregated data.
	1.2. Number of sectoral reports disaggregating data by gender.
	1.3. Percentage of climate plans incorporating gender-specific needs.
2. Resource allocation to women's climate needs	2.1. Percentage of climate adaptation budgets allocated to women's needs.
	2.2. Amount of funding for gender-responsive initiative.
	2.3. Number of resilience projects that address women's needs.
3. Participation of women in climate adaptation programs	3.1. Percentage of women participating in climate program
	3.2. Number of women in leadership role
	3.3. Integration level of women in climate related meetings.
4. Access to climate information and resources	4.1. Percentage of women with access to tailored climate information.
	4.2. Number of women benefiting from training programs.
	4.3. Availability of resources addressing women's needs.

B. Qualitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Institutional engagement	1.1. Quality of women's engagement in climate policy discussions, including the extent to which women's inputs are integrated and the institution's understanding of gender-specific climate needs.
	1.2. Institutional capacity to implement gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies, assessing planning, budgeting, and execution of gender programs.
	1.3. Integration of gender-specific indicators in institutional Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) frameworks, assessing their application in tracking alignment with plans like NAP and SDG 13.
	1.4. Identification of systemic barriers limiting women's participation in climate actions.
	1.5. Effectiveness of support systems such as government mechanisms addressing these barriers.
	1.6. Adaptations in institutional policies to mitigate barriers for women.
2. Engagement at community level	2.1. Identification of social, cultural, and structural barriers limiting women's contributions to community-based climate actions.
	2.2. Assessment of women's collective knowledge, leadership, and community resource access in climate-resilient practices.
	2.3. Community perceptions of women-led climate initiatives' effectiveness.
	2.4. Acknowledgement of women-led projects in the community to assess how valued these initiatives are.



Addressing women’s climate needs is essential for effective and equitable climate action. Women, particularly those in marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to reliance on natural resources, limited access to resources and cultural constraints. Tailoring climate solutions to these vulnerabilities enhances and bridges gender inequalities. Using both quantitative and qualitative indicators is crucial for accountability, providing objective and deeper insights into women’s contributions and challenges. These indicators support the NAP and contributes to Nepal’s alignment with SDGs. Quantitative data on gender-specific resource allocation and participation rates offer concrete metrics, while Qualitative measures assess the effectiveness of women’s engagement and support systems.

By promoting women’s involvement and leadership, climate actions become inclusive and sustainable, benefiting entire communities and driving innovation. A gender-responsive approach to climate adaptation not only promotes equality, it also enhances overall resilience, ensuring that all individuals are empowered to face challenges and contribute to sustainable solutions.





Principle 3: Ensures Women's Participation and Leadership in Decision-Making



This principle emphasizes women's participation and leadership in climate-related decisionmaking and adaptive strategies, highlighting the challenges and good practices in Nepal. It aims to provide both qualitative and quantitative indicators to guide actionable recommendations for gender-just climate solutions, and underscores how integrating gender considerations leads to more effective climate initiatives.

Introduction

Feminist theories suggest that, due to systemic inequalities, women from marginalized communities have unique lived experiences that shape their understanding of climate challenges (Al-wazedi, 2020). This makes their participation and leadership when formulating climate related strategies and policies. Although Nepal has attempted to integrate Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) into its climate policies, programs and institutional mechanisms, early efforts such as the 2016-INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution), overlooked gender. The 2020 NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) has since addressed these gaps by incorporating GESI concerns in both mitigation and adaptation components.

Nepal's GESI Strategy 2021 mandates quotas for women, including, 40% at the local level be women, with 20 percent specifically Dalit¹ women, and 33 percent all elected representatives. These targets are often met with token representation. Many women in leadership come from elite or kinship backgrounds, limiting genuine participation. As a result, women's perspectives are frequently overlooked in decisionmaking processes (Acharya, 2021)

Good practice: Women's leadership in climate initiatives and decision-making

One notable example is the success of Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs), established in the 1990s. Women-led CFUGs have shown impressive results in forest management, which is critical for climate resilience. Women's inclusion in forest management has enhanced sustainability as they have brought diverse perspectives, especially from their roles in managing natural resources at the household level. Empowered female leadership in these initiatives have led to more equitable and sustainable outcomes. (Pandey and Pokhrel, 2021)

For instance, the women-led Pragatishil CFUG, successfully mitigated flood risks through dam construction. Dedication of Dalit leader Dhanamaya Bishwokarma, and former president of a women-led CFUG, despite facing initial resistance has transformed her community's perception of women's leadership in forest management (RECOFTC, 2022).

GAPS AND CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Individual Level

Cultural norms and traditional gender roles limit women’s public and political participation and confine them to domestic responsibilities. Many women are unaware of how climate change affects their lives, which hinders their ability to contribute meaningfully to climate solutions.

Community Level

In decision-making forums, male leaders often dismiss or undermine women’s contributions. Even when women are present in meetings, their participation often does not translate into real influence. Additionally, discrimination and gender-based violence, and a lack of safe spaces deter women from active participation in climate initiatives.

Institutional Level

Women’s specific needs and challenges are often overlooked in policy development, excluding them from key networks and platforms where climate policies are shaped. Women also face socio-economic barriers including limited access to education and resources, which prevents them from assuming leadership roles in climate decision-making. Intersectional identities further compound these challenges. Women from marginalized castes, ethnic minorities, and women with disabilities face multiple layers of discrimination requiring targeted strategies to address their specific needs.

Indicators for Measurement

A. Quantitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Disaggregated data collection	1.1. Percentage of climate-related data sets that are disaggregated by gender.
	1.2. Number of sectors (e.g., energy, agriculture, disaster, water) that have adopted standardized procedures (official guidelines, formats etc.) for collecting gender-disaggregated climate data.
	1.3. Percentage of climate mitigation and adaptation projects utilizing gender-disaggregated data for planning and implementation, including reporting.
	1.4. Comparative analysis of data disaggregation by gender across different sectors (e.g., energy, agriculture, water).
	1.5. Number of marginalized women (by caste, ethnicity and socio-economic status) in leadership roles within climate initiatives and decision-making committees.
2. Documentation of women-led work	2.1. Number of women-led projects or programs addressing climate change.
	2.2. Percentage of climate initiatives that documents women’s roles and contributions.
	2.3. Number of articles, reports, and case studies featuring women-led climate initiatives.
	2.4. Number of women participating in leadership and capacitybuilding programs related to climate action.
	2.5. Number of women-led climate projects that achieve their goals and objectives.



3. Budget allocation	3.1. Percentage of the total climate budget allocated to gender-just climate solutions.
	3.2. Percentage of climate budget allocated to women-led projects.
	3.3. Yearly increase in the budget allocated to gender-just climate solutions.
	3.4. Percentage of climate funding directed towards programs that promote women's participation and leadership.
	3.5. Number of policies that adopt and implement a genderresponsive lens to sectors related to climate such as energy, agriculture, water, etc.
4. Women's participation in climate decision-making	4.1. Changes in the number of women participating in climaterelated committees and initiatives.
	4.2. Proportion of women in leadership positions within climate initiatives.
	4.3. Frequency of women's attendance and active participation in climate decision-making meetings.

B. Qualitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Quality of women's engagement in climate committees and initiatives	1.1. Degree of women's contributions: Assesses how often women provide substantive, informed input during climate-related discussions.
	1.2. Impact of women's input: Evaluates if women's contributions lead to tangible changes in decision-making or (policy) outcomes.
	1.3. Perception of reception: Assesses how women's opinions are perceived by male counterparts and the broader group.
	1.4. Frequency of speaking opportunities: Tracks how often women are invited to contribute and the nature and relevance of their contributions.
	1.5. Engagement in knowledge sharing: Observes how effectively women share expertise and knowledge, and whether their insights lead to adjustments in policies or initiatives.
2. Women's influence on climate decisions	2.1. Influence of policy decisions: Assess the extent to which gender-responsive inputs are reflected in climate policy decisions.
	2.2. Policy changes attributable to women: Tracks shifts in policies or actions that can be attributed to women's contributions.
	2.3. Stakeholder perceptions: Examines how stakeholders perceive the importance and impact of women's involvement in decisionsmaking.

3. Support and barriers to women's participation	3.1.Sources and types of support: Evaluates the availability and accessibility of support structures (e.g., mentoring, training) for women.
	3.2.Barriers to participation: Identifies challenges hindering women's participation and efforts to address these barriers.
	3.3.Institutional changes: Monitors changes in policies that promotes women's participation in climate actions.
4. Women's knowledge and skills development	4.1.Access to training: Measures women's access to education and training on climate adaption and leadership.
	4.2.Self-reported skill improvement: Tracks changes in women's knowledge and skills relevant to climate initiatives.
5. Women's aspirations in climate leadership	5.1.Aspirations for leadership: Assesses shifts in women's aspirations for leadership roles in climate initiatives.
	5.2.Sectoral preferences: Tracks changes in women's preferred sectors for involvement in climate action and decision-making.
6. Women's voice in climate policy-making	6.1.Incorporation of women's ideas: Assesses whether and how women's contributions are reflected in final policy decisions.
	6.2.Representation in policy documents: Examines the prominence of women's perspectives in official policy documents.
	6.3.Influence of women's opinions: Tracks changes in the frequency and influence of women's contributions in climate policy meetings.
	6.4.Support for women's leadership: Examines perceptions of support for women's participation and leadership in climate initiatives.
	6.5.Feedback mechanism: Reviews mechanisms that inform women about the impact of their contributions on decision-making.
7. Women's influence on climate action decisions	7.1.Attitudes towards women's role: Measures stakeholder perceptions on whether women should have a significant role in climate decisions.
	7.2.Women's influence on policy: Tracks perceptions of women's ability to shape climate policy and action plans.
	7.3.Support for women advocates: Identifies sources of support for women advocating for gender-sensitive climate policies.
	7.4.Consequences of asserting leadership: Examines challenges women face when asserting their opinions or taking leadership in climate initiatives.
8. Quality of climate initiatives addressing women's needs	8.1.Women's input in initiative design: Evaluates how actively women contribute to the design of climate initiatives, and whether/how their input is integrated.
	8.2.Participation in planning: Tracks the significance of women's participation in planning processes for climate initiatives.
	8.3.Educational reach and effectiveness: Measures the effectiveness of initiatives in educating women about climate issues and their engagement.

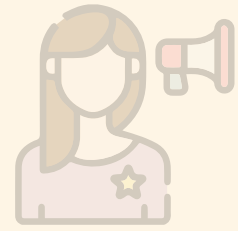


While Nepal has made strides like the GESI Strategy 2021 and the amended NDC, the integration of gender perspectives into climate policies remain inadequate. Women, especially from marginalized groups, continue to face systemic barriers to meaningful participation and leadership. Success stories of women-led CFUGs demonstrate the transformative impact of female leadership in climate adaptation and forest management. However, the persistent issues of tokenism, lack of genuine engagement, and societal prejudices persist, limiting women's broader influence.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that includes both quantitative and qualitative indicators in the GGA framework to fully capture the progress. By fostering partnerships with male allies and actively involving women in climate decision-making, we can create more sustainable and resilient communities. These efforts will enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of adaptation strategies, ensuring that the voices of women are not only heard but have a meaningful influence on decisions that shape the future of climate resilience.



Principle 4: Promoting Information Dissemination to Women



This principle focuses on the importance of providing climate-related information to women in accessible, relevant, and actionable ways. Ensuring women are well-informed enables their active participation in climate action, fostering both equity and resilience. Information should be tailored to women’s specific needs, considering factors like literacy levels, language, and technology access. Through effective communication about climate risks, opportunities, and solutions, women can make informed decisions, advocate for their rights, and take leadership roles in climate initiatives. The paper has suggested qualitative and quantitative indicators for assessing the success of these dissemination efforts, and provided guidance on developing communication strategies that resonate with women across different contexts.

Introduction

Effective information dissemination is essential for empowering women, especially in areas like climate adaptation, agricultural techniques, disaster preparedness, and health. Access to accurate, context-specific information improves women’s ability to make informed decisions, advocate for their rights, and contribute to climate solutions. In Nepal, with its 125 languages and dialects (Bhattachan, 2003), it is crucial to ensure that climate information is accessible to women, especially those in marginalized communities. This approach promotes gender equity and builds resilience against climate challenges.

Disseminating information to women is not merely a technical task; it is central to achieving gender justice. Recognizing women’s unique vulnerabilities and needs, particularly among marginalized groups, aims to bridge the information gap and include them fully in climate-related initiatives. Women encounter different barriers to accessing information: rural women may struggle with internet access, while urban women may face challenges navigating complex digital platforms. Education level and socio-economic status further influence access. This principle emphasizes delivering information in formats and languages that are understandable and actionable, enabling them to participate in and influence decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities.

Selecting the right dissemination channels is critical to ensuring that vulnerable groups, particularly women in marginalized and remote areas, have the knowledge to navigate climate challenges. Women also possess valuable indigenous knowledge on climate impacts and best practices, which may be crucial for climate adaptation strategies.

This principle explores the significance of information dissemination to women in Nepal, focusing on how it empowers them to negotiate better terms in various life aspects, counter misinformation, and claim their rights. It will also address obstacles such as language barriers, technical jargon, and limited technology access, proposing strategies to overcome them. By examining best practices and innovative approaches, an attempt is made to optimize information dissemination, ensuring that women are not only informed but also empowered to act.



Good practice that promotes information dissemination to women

These good practices emerged from discussions organized jointly by PRC and Tewa in their gender-just climate solutions dialogue:

1. Household level disaster management plan with vulnerability identification in Kanchanpur

Effective information dissemination to women helps advance gender-just climate solutions. For example, during 2021 Census, a ward level committee questionnaire went standard data collection and included information on essential local infrastructures including local birthing centres, climate change impacts, and disaster preparedness. Building on this approach, the Disaster Crisis Assessment (DCA) implemented a household level disaster management plan in Kanchanpur, using a flagging system to identify houses with vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly, differently-abled, or pregnant women. This system prioritizes at-risk populations ensuring timely support during emergencies.

2. Chhalfal Chautari - women-led climate dialogues

Women-led initiatives are powerful in disseminating climate information. Indigenous communities have actively raised awareness about climate-friendly practices like waste management. Chhalfal Chautari, a women-led group, engages local governments in climate dialogues, promoting gender-just climate solutions and amplifying women's voices in decision-making.

3. Community Safety Net initiative by Tewa – Transition to Sustainable Practices

The Community Safety Net initiative by Tewa has enabled women to shift from producing plastic bags to sustainable farming by providing them with necessary information and skills. This shift demonstrates the impact of well targeted information, empowering women to adopt sustainable practices.

Various media formats such as short video clips explaining climate-related topics in simple, relatable terms; and SMS alerts on weather conditions and emergency actions, make climate information accessible and actionable, particularly for rural women. A multi-channel approach including traditional and modern communication methods ensures wide reach. Local radio, community meetings, and hands-on workshops allow women to engage with and influence climate actions. Feedback mechanisms in these initiatives enable continuous improvement.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN PROMOTING INFORMATION DISSEMINATION TO WOMEN

Challenges in information dissemination to women in Nepal stem from linguistic, technological, socioeconomic, and cultural barriers, limiting their participation in climate-related decision-making.

a. Language and communication barriers

Nepal's linguistic diversity, with 142 ethnic groups and many local dialects, poses a significant communication challenge. Information is often in national or regional languages, limiting understanding for many, especially rural women. Technical jargons in climate information can also be difficult for non-experts. Bridging these gaps requires two-way communication and creating environments where women feel empowered to seek the information they need, fostering confidence and awareness in marginalized communities.

b. Limited access to technology

Digital tools like smart phones and social media can reach broad audiences, but access varies widely. Many rural women have limited access to mobile phones or reliable internet due to high costs and inadequate infrastructure, restricting their ability to engage with digital information. Weak ICT policy implementation leaving many rural women without necessary digital support. Addressing these barriers involves strengthening policies to guarantee equitable digital access for women.

c. Socio-cultural and educational barriers

In communities with lower literacy rates, written materials are often inaccessible, especially to women. Low literacy levels extend beyond reading to understand complex topics like climate science and legal rights. Socio-cultural norms, which prioritize men's roles in accessing information and decision-making, marginalize women, and can lead to the selective dissemination of information. Psychological and emotional barriers also discourage women from actively seeking information, especially in environments where information flow is controlled. Addressing these barriers requires strategies to build confidence and promote equitable information access.

Indicators for Measurement

A. Quantitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Reach and coverage	1.1. Number of women reached by climate information campaigns/ sources.
	1.2. Participation rates in climate information sessions, disaggregated by demographics.
	1.3. Access to digital tools and technology among women, including types of information sources (e.g., mobile phones, internet, radio, community centers).
	1.4. Media consumption rates among women, focusing on climate information.
	1.5. Access to government resources for climate adaptation information.
2. Implementation and adoption	2.1. Adoption rates of gender-sensitive information dissemination strategies.
	2.2. Percentage of climate change information users, disaggregated by key intersectional identities such as, gender, age, disability, or ethnicity, to track adoption rates.
	2.3. Number of RTI (Right to Information) officers engaged in information dissemination.
	2.4. Percentage of targeted messages that have been effectively disseminated.
	2.5. Percentage of women adopting climate-friendly practices such as agroecology.
	2.6. Percentage of local government budget allocation to gender-friendly ICT for information dissemination.
	2.7. Increase in gender-friendly climate-resilient solutions within climate change and disaster-related budgeting.



B. Qualitative Indicators

Domain	Indicators
1. Comprehension and clarity	1.1. Understanding of information by women, focusing on relevance, timeliness, accuracy and clarity.
	1.2. Opportunities for women to provide feedback.
	1.3. Communication effectiveness regarding location-specific adaptation practices.
2. Cultural and intersectional sensitivity	2.1. Cultural sensitivity and locality relevance of information.
	2.2. Women's access to climate adaptation, considering potential barriers.
	2.3. Case studies and impact stories showing the information's effect (e.g., sanitary pad distribution).
	2.4. Women's role in decision-making and meaningful participation in information processes.
	2.5. Recognition and use of indigenous and local knowledge.
	2.6. Accessibility of climate-friendly technologies communicated in women-friendly ways (e.g., visual aids).
	2.7. Inclusivity of intersectional groups in accessing information.
3. Institutional and behavioral insights	3.1. Effectiveness of information flow among institutions (government, CSOs, NGOs), identifying trusted sources for women.
	3.2. Awareness and exercise of Right to Information (RTI) by women, emphasizing transparency.
	3.3. Dissemination of reliable information within community emphasizing authenticity.
4. Impact and resilience	4.1. Enhanced resilience through information sharing in agriculture, disaster management, water, and energy sectors.
	4.2. Women's leadership in climate resilience discussions.
	4.3. Women's awareness of long-term climate impacts on health and well-being.
	4.4. Case studies showing how information dissemination meets intersectional needs (e.g., creative use of ICT).

Effective information dissemination is essential to promote gender equity in climate solutions. In Nepal, where women's experiences vary by cultural, linguistic, and geographical contexts, access to reliable information empowers them to contribute meaningfully to climate initiatives. Equally important are platforms that facilitate women's active information-seeking, encouraging two-way communication that promotes participation and inclusion. Equipped with relevant knowledge, women can make informed decisions, assert their rights, and play active roles in addressing climate challenges. Despite its importance of this task, information dissemination faces obstacles, especially for marginalized women. Language differences, limited technological access, and cultural norms that prioritize men's access to information must be addressed. Resolving these issues requires policies at the national, provincial, and local levels to ensure equal information access for all.

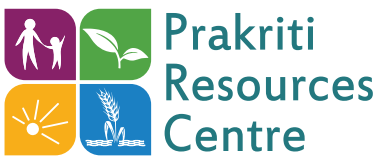
Using both quantitative and qualitative metrics can comprehensively assess the reach, relevance and inclusiveness of information dissemination. Quantitative metrics track participation and adoption rates, while, qualitative indicators provide insight into the information's impact, relevance, and cultural appropriateness.

Examples from Nepal show the effectiveness of community-driven projects and digital tools in adapting communication strategies to local contexts, blending traditional and modern channels, and ensuring active participation by women. This ongoing process of building capacity supports lifelong learning, empowering communities to face climate challenges, with women in leadership roles. Initiatives such as digital literacy programs, climate data workshops and leadership training, are key to equipping women to access and use information effectively, strengthening resilience in the face of evolving challenges.



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