



How to put Gender-responsive Climate Solutions into Action.



Lebanon's Approach.





About UNDP

UNDP's work on climate change spans more than 140 countries and USD \$3.7 billion in investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures since 2008. With the goal to foster ambitious progress towards resilient, zero-carbon development, UNDP has also supported the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by working with countries on achieving their climate commitments or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The UNDP NDC Support Programme

The NDC Support Programme provides technical support for countries to pursue a “whole-of-society”, integrated approach that strengthens national systems, facilitates climate action and increases access to finance for transformative sustainable development. The programme helps countries address these financial barriers by deploying a structured approach for scaling up sectoral investments and putting in place a transparent, enabling investment environment. Beyond direct country support, UNDP facilitates exchanges and learning opportunities on NDC implementation at the global and regional level by capitalizing on our close collaboration with the UNFCCC and other strategic partners.

Gender Initiative

Coordinating and connecting the interlinked processes of climate change and gender equality, by using NDCs as a platform, offers an opportunity to promote inclusive and successful development outcomes. The NDC Support Programme is supporting the work in 17 countries to ensure that gender equality aspects are factored into the NDC processes by leveraging analysis, strengthening institutional mechanisms, ensuring gender-responsive climate actions and disseminating best practices to enhance national-level capacities.

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The context

In view of enhancing climate action, the Government of Lebanon sought to assess how to integrate gender considerations into Lebanon's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and related policies. The link between climate change and gender have been well-documented at the global level. Regional and country-based studies have confirmed that climate change mitigation and adaptation actions cannot be successful without adopting a gender perspective. In Lebanon, this link had not yet been clearly established. This gender analysis, which was carried out under the NDC Support Programme, aims at providing entry-points to increase the gender-inclusiveness and responsiveness of climate change policies, strategies, planning and reporting aspects.

Main findings

In Lebanon, structural gender inequalities rely on a discriminatory legal framework and cultural and social beliefs that undermine women's access to decision-making processes. In addition, gender is often misunderstood (directly related to 'women') and not systematically mainstreamed into policies, including climate change policies.

Some climate sector strategies include gender aspects (agriculture or forestry strategies for instance) and this is mainly thanks to the support of an international actor or non-governmental organization who advocates for the inclusion of a gender-lens in public action. Other sectors such as energy, water and waste were found to include little gender considerations.

A lack of adequate data renders it difficult to identify concrete actions for mainstreaming gender into climate change actions. Furthermore, public institutions lack capacities and knowledge while gender institutions have often been left out of climate change activities. This lack of coordination between gender and climate change institutions has undermined gender-responsive climate action in Lebanon.

Main recommendations

- Mainstream gender in all climate-related documents and reports;
- Reinforce the gender institutions and the Gender Focal Points Network to adequately mainstream gender in public policies and climate change action;
- Build women's capacities to increase their participation in policy-makings processes;
- Enhance public institutions' capacities to mainstream gender by introducing specific procedures;
- Improve the data collection system and increase coordination between CSOs, academic institutions and public institutions.



Lebanon's gender-mainstreaming step-by-step



STEP 1

Conduct Gender Analysis. A gender analysis was conducted to identify gaps and determine next steps for gender-mainstreaming. Extensive consultations with members of the NDC committee and Gender Focal Points from the line ministries were held to understand the baseline conditions. This analysis also identified the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) as the primary governmental agency to lead collaboration on gender-climate change mainstreaming.

The **main challenges** identified in the gender analysis were:

- **Cultural barriers** to gender equality and women's participation in decision-making;
- **Misunderstanding of the concept of gender** which hinders its effective consideration and prioritization in policies;
- Difficulties in **understanding the linkages** between gender and climate change;
- **Lack of capacity-building on climate change** in institutions, which renders capacity-building on gender increasingly challenging;
- **No systematic mainstreaming of gender** into climate change policies and planning, integration is **irregular** and varies across sectors. Some aspects of gender have been included in climate-relevant policies only because of the requirements of international donors;
- **Lack of required training and tools** for both climate and gender actors;
- **No dedicated budget** for gender-related activities;
- **Lack of adequate data** to perform informed policy-making on gender integration;
- **Lack of coordination** for data collection between the relevant ministries, public institutions and academic institutions.

A **baseline assessment of the climate-relevant policies included in Lebanon's NDC** showed different treatments of gender concepts in policy-making. Looking closely at each policy, **six different categories of "gender-inclusion" emerged:**

- **Women's participation:** mentioned the importance of women's participation;
- **Capacity building:** mentioned the need of capacity building targeting women;
- **Sex-disaggregated data:** the document contains sex-disaggregated data;
- **Gender indicators:** the document includes gender indicators;
- **Other:** includes an aspect that is related to gender such as women's vulnerability to climate change, participation of gender institution or simple mention of gender.
- **None:** no reference to gender or the specific and different needs and interests of women and men has been made in the document;



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Identify Sectoral Prioritization.

STEP 2

A prioritization exercise identified which sectors needed further capacity-building in order to focus efforts. The potential impact, status and opportunity of mainstreaming were categorized into “high (3)”, “medium (2)” and “low (1)” and unknown (0). Financial support was scored as “Yes=+3” and “No=-3”.

The following criteria was used to prioritize the sectors:

Impact: importance that gender relations play in the related sector and level of impact that the integration of gender can have on gender relations;

Status: current status of the sector regarding gender inclusion;

Opportunity: Current opportunity to integrate gender including updating of strategies, policies or new institutional mechanisms;

HR: existing human resources with capacity to integrate gender in policies;

External support: existing financial support already provided to include gender.

The results showed a high irregularity in the mitigation and adaptation policies. The agriculture and forestry sectors are the most advanced in terms of gender integration (4 out of the 6 categories; or 67%), while the biodiversity, energy, transport, tourism and water sectors’ policies emerged as gender-blind.

However, **based on the impact, status and opportunities for gender integration, the focus was further narrowed down** to the water, waste and energy sectors as priority sectors.

SECTOR	IMPACT	STATUS	OPPORTUNITY	HUMAN RESOURCES	SUB-TOTAL	EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT	TOTAL
Agriculture	High	Medium	High	High	11	Yes	8
Biodiversity	Low	Low	Unknown	Low	3	No	6
Disaster risk reduction	High	Medium	High	High	11	Yes	8
Energy	High	Low	High	Low	8	No	11
Land degradation neutrality	Low	Unknown	Low	LowW	3	Yes	0
Land change, land-use change, forestry	Low	High	Low	High	8	Yes	5
Public health	Medium	Unknown	Low	Unknown	3	No	6
Transport	High	Low	Low	Low	6	No	9
Tourism	High	Low	Low	Low	6	No	9
Waste	High	Low	Medium	Low	7	No	10
Water	High	Low	High	Low	8	No	11



STEP 3

Identify Gender Indicators and Sectoral Linkages. In order to enhance the understanding of relevant stakeholders on the linkages, concrete example of the benefits of integration were elaborated for the three prioritized sectors. These linkages were identified using a set of questions to guide the thought-process:

- What tasks are women/men responsible for and what are their behaviors and practices?
- How do men and women both contribute to GHG emission?
- How are men and women affected by climate change including health impact, migration, livelihood, access to water and energy?
- What are the variables, along with gender, that play a role in vulnerability to climate change?
- How do men and women both contribute to each climate sectors?

Energy sector example with proposed indicators

LINKAGES	INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy plays a key role for household needs, education, health care, access to clean water and other services; • Energy has direct impact on women’s lives: women are often responsible for domestic work that requires energy; • As primary household-energy managers, women have a critical role to play along their male counterparts in the success of any energy related policy; • Energy and related new technologies can play a key role in integrating women into the economy by involving them in new types of activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender role in the energy sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of energy used and consumption behavior among users (by sex) • Level of awareness on energy efficiency practices (by sex) Participation in the energy sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of women-headed business in the energy sector • % of women engineers working in the energy sector Capacity building and awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of women taking part in awareness activities • % of women having access to information on financing options, energy efficiency mechanisms, renewable energy Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of women accessing green loans



STEP 4

Organize Capacity-building Training. Once gender mainstreaming information was clearly formulated, capacity-building sessions for both sectoral and gender experts were organized in cooperation with NCLW.

1. Gender Integration in Solid Waste Policies – objectives:
 - Increasing the solid waste stakeholders’ knowledge of gender;
 - Finding entry-points to mainstream gender into the future solid waste strategies, policies and actions plans.
2. Gender Transformative Programming: Technical Capacity-Building Session – objectives:
 - Increasing staff knowledge of gender related concepts;
 - Presenting tools to mainstream gender into projects and programs;
 - Enhancing staff capacity to undertake a gender analysis; and
 - Reinforcing gender mainstreaming in work towards transformative gender equality results, reporting, and impact.
3. Implementation Through Integration: Gender Focal Points’ Workshop on Gender-Responsiveness of Climate Policies – objectives:
 - Reviewing climate change and gender concepts;
 - Strengthening gender focal points’ role and capacities in the policy making process;
 - Finding entry points to mainstream gender into climate change action.

◆◆◆◆◆ **Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).** Building on the selected policies, a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was developed to anchor the gender integration in ministerial policies through a step-wise approach. The NCLW will produce a draft legal document to mainstream the SOPs in all ministerial policies, to be adopted by the Council of Ministers. The implementation of these SOPs will be the responsibility of the gender focal points present in the different line ministries.

◆◆◆◆◆ **Designate a Gender Focal Point in Each Ministry.** Their role is to ensure that gender is taken into consideration in planning processes and policies, gaps and obstacles for gender mainstreaming are identified, and that experience are shared on a regular basis to reinforce capacities.

◆◆◆◆◆ **Integrate Gender into Climate-related Projects and Policies.** A second set of SOPs were drafted to include gender in all climate-related projects, ranging from reporting to political documents such as Lebanon's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Lebanon's NDC revision will include gender considerations, thus elevating its priority at the political level. Moreover, linkages to SDG 5: Gender Equality will also be strengthened in the NDC and related climate change policies.



Way forward

In addition to having the SOPs become a mandatory guidance to integrate gender into climate-relevant policies, there is still much to do to enhance the priority of both climate and gender. The envisaged next steps are therefore centred around awareness, transparency and cooperation:

- Survey climate change mitigation and adaptation policies for sex-disaggregated data opportunities;
- Publish a report on gender and climate change in Lebanon to raise awareness on the existing linkages;
- Include capacity building sessions on gender and climate change in climate change events;
- Follow up on the SOPs: collect feed-backs from gender focal points;
- Continue working with NCLW on climate change action.

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