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Integrating gender considerations in the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs)

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Least Developed Countries Expert Group

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Acronyms

ADCOMs	**adaptation communications**
CSA	**climate-smart agriculture**
COP	**Conference of the Parties**
DRR	**disaster risk reduction**
FAO	**Food and Agriculture Organization**
GCF	**Green Climate Fund**
IPCC	**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**
LEG	**Least Developed Countries Expert Group**
LDC	**least developed country**
MEL	**monitoring, evaluation and learning**
NAP	**national adaptation plan**
UNEP	**United Nations Environment Programme**
UNDP	**United Nations Development Programme**
UNDRR	**United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**
UNFCCC	**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**
UNICEF	**United Nations Children's Fund**
Sendai GAP	**Sendai Gender Action Plan**

Abstract

This paper provides a synthesis of case studies submitted in response to a call for submissions by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) on how organizations have supported the integration of gender into the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). The call was open from 15 October to 15 December 2024, in line with the LEG's mandate to strengthen gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in the least developed countries (LDCs) (decision 6/CP.16, para. 2(c)).

Drawing on the **17 submissions** received from **10 organizations**, 16 of which set out recommendations, this paper provides an overview of the submissions and summarizes each in terms of its recommendations for gender integration and the challenges and barriers identified. It also identifies cross-cutting obstacles, including weak institutional frameworks, gender-blind policies, limited finance, socio-cultural constraints, and gaps in gender-disaggregated data. On this basis, it sets out key takeaways for advancing gender-responsive adaptation, from meaningful participation and transformative, intersectional approaches to stronger data and accountability, equitable access to resources and climate finance, and gender-sensitive communication.

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01. Introduction

The LEG is mandated to provide technical guidance and advice on strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities within least developed country (LDC) Parties (decision 6/CP.16, para. 2(c)). This synthesis builds on the LEG's earlier gender work, including Strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the least developed countries (2015) and the Toolkit for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) (2019). As part of its work programme, the LEG issued a call for case studies from 15 October to 15 December 2024 on how relevant organizations have supported the LDCs in integrating and reflecting gender considerations in the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

The process to formulate and implement NAPs was established by COP 16, in 2010, to enable the LDCs to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and develop and implement strategies and programmes to address those needs. The process is guided by the following principles: ensuring a continuous, progressive and iterative process that is not prescriptive; facilitating country-owned, country-driven action; following a gender-responsive, participatory and transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; and being based on and guided by the best available science and traditional and Indigenous knowledge. Almost all NAPs include gender considerations[1], although the outcomes vary in terms of equitable participation in the NAP formulation process, influence in decision-making processes and identification of specific gender-responsive adaptation needs.

This synthesis is aligned with the wider United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) gender framework, under which gender-responsive climate action is advanced through the Lima work programme on gender and its successive gender action plans, most recently the Belém Gender Action Plan for 2026–2034, adopted at COP 30 in November 2025. The paper is structured around an overview of the submissions, detailed summaries of each case, a consolidated account of the challenges identified, and key takeaways for integrating gender considerations into NAPs.

The case studies assess four key areas:

- how gender is integrated into NAPs;
- successful approaches for gender-responsive adaptation planning;
- implementation of gender-responsive policies and programmes;
- and engagement of women (including rural and Indigenous women), gender experts, and women's organizations in NAP formulation and implementation.

1 See https://napcentral.org/.



02. Overview of case study submissions

Submissions received

The LEG received 17 submissions from 10 organizations in response to the call. The submitting organizations span United Nations agencies (FAO, UNEP, UNICEF and UNDRR), a climate fund (the Green Climate Fund), a global knowledge network (the NAP Global Network), a research alliance (the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT), a regional initiative (the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Urban Transition Initiative) and civil-society organizations (Climate Solution International and, from Bangladesh, NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice).

The submissions range from single-country cases to multi-country programmes and global syntheses, and cover every stage of the NAP process, from vulnerability assessment and prioritization to implementation, financing and monitoring.

The NETZ submission consists of two community-level field case studies documenting the lived experience of climate impacts and locally delivered adaptation support; it does not set out recommendations for the NAP process, and the analysis that follows therefore draws on the 16 submissions that do.

The full list of submissions, with their context and geographic focus, is provided in the Annex table 1. The submissions themselves are on file with the secretariat.

Approach to the synthesis

Each of the 16 submissions setting out recommendations was reviewed to extract its recommendations for integrating gender into the NAP process and the challenges and barriers it identified.

Recurring recommendations were grouped into the cross-cutting findings set out below and distilled into the key takeaways in the conclusion, while the challenges were consolidated into the thematic clusters presented in Table 2.

The individual case summaries in Section 3 retain each submission's recommendations and challenges in full, so that readers can trace every finding back to its source.

A submission was counted as raising a theme or barrier where its recommendations or identified challenges explicitly addressed it; the contributing submissions for each are set out in Annex table 2.

Coverage and limitations

The submissions were self-selected and reflect the experience of the responding organizations rather than a systematic sample of the NAP process.

Their headline geographic focus is predominantly global or regional, and several country examples are drawn from non-LDCs, including Colombia, Uruguay, Guatemala and Zimbabwe.

The underlying country evidence is nonetheless substantially anchored in the LDCs. It includes the FAO programmes in Ethiopia, Senegal and Uganda and the FAO-supported NAP process in Togo, the NAP Global Network gender analyses in Benin, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Madagascar, Senegal and Togo, the Sendai Gender Action Plan (GAP) work in Nepal, Cambodia and Lao PDR, the GCF-supported processes in Zambia and Bangladesh, the UNICEF review of NAPs and adaptation communications from West and Central Africa, and the NETZ field case studies from Bangladesh.

The depth of evidence varies considerably, from multi-country syntheses based on systematic review to single narrative accounts, and the findings are best read as transferable lessons and promising practices to be adapted to specific LDC contexts.

02. Overview of case study submissions

Cross-cutting findings

Read across the 16 submissions, the recommendations cluster into a small number of recurring themes of differing weight rather than appearing evenly. Two are effectively cross-cutting. The meaningful engagement of women, gender experts and women's organizations across the stages of the NAP process, and the strengthening of institutional arrangements through gender focal points, gender ministries, coordination mechanisms and capacity-building, are each advanced by 13 of the 16 submissions. Recognition of women as agents of change, framed through gender-responsive and, where the evidence allows, transformative or intersectional approaches, follows closely and is present in 10 of the 16 submissions. Two further themes appear in half of the cases: the use of gender analysis and gender-disaggregated data to inform planning, together with gender-specific indicators in monitoring and evaluation (8 of 16), and equitable access to resources and climate finance, including gender-responsive budgeting (8 of 16). The salient finding is the consistency of this set as a whole rather than the prominence of any single recommendation: submissions from different organizations, regions and mandates arrive independently at a convergent account of what a gender-responsive NAP process requires. Gender-sensitive communication and awareness-raising recur as a further enabling emphasis across several submissions.

13 out of 16 submissions

report meaningful engagement of women, gender experts and women's organizations across the stages of the NAP process and strengthening of institutional arrangements through gender focal points, gender ministries, coordination mechanisms and capacity-building

10 out of 16 submissions

recognize women as agents of change, framed through gender-responsive and, where the evidence allows, transformative or intersectional approaches

8 out of 16 submissions

include the use of gender analysis and gender-disaggregated data to inform planning, together with gender-specific indicators in monitoring and evaluation and equitable access to resources and climate finance, including gender-responsive budgeting

Across several submissions

gender-sensitive communication and awareness raising as enabling emphasis

The submissions converge even more strongly on the obstacles they identify, which are consolidated in Table 2. Gender-blind policies and decision-making, encompassing gender-neutral approaches that overlook women's needs, symbolic or limited participation, and the neglect of intersecting identities, is near-universal, reported in 15 of the 16 cases. Weak structural and institutional positioning of gender, including the absence of dedicated budgets, limited engagement of gender ministries and coordination mechanisms, and persistent capacity gaps, follows in 11 of 16 cases. Gaps in gender-disaggregated data and monitoring (8 of 16) and limited access to resources and finance (7 of 16) form a middle tier, while socio-cultural and normative constraints (6 of 16), resistance to transformative approaches (4 of 16), the compounding of existing inequalities by climate disasters (3 of 16) and the exclusion of Indigenous and traditional knowledge (2 of 16) recur less frequently but map onto the same underlying structural, normative and evidentiary deficits.

A small number of submissions extend beyond the direct integration of gender into NAPs. The Climate Solution International case treats gender in climate discourse more broadly and directs its recommendations to bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UNFCCC; the UNEP submission raises adaptation and finance challenges that are not gender-specific; and the three UNICEF submissions view adaptation primarily through a child rights lens, with the programming guide framing its recommendations for the organization's own work rather than for the NAP process. The NETZ submission documents lived experience of climate impacts and locally delivered adaptation support at household level, including homestead cultivation, salinity-tolerant local seed and small livestock transfers, for extremely poor and women-headed households rather than the NAP process itself; it is listed in the Annex and read as illustrative evidence complementing the policy-oriented submissions. These cases are reflected in the summaries where relevant and are read as complements to, rather than substitutes for, the NAP-focused findings. The consolidated takeaways arising from the patterns identified above are set out in the conclusion.

Top obstacles identified

15 out of 16

submissions report gender-blind policies and decision making

Encompassing gender-neutral approaches that overlook women's needs, symbolic or limited participation, and the neglect of intersecting identities

11 out of 16

submissions report weak structural and institutional positioning of gender

Including the absence of dedicated budgets, limited engagement of gender ministries and coordination mechanisms, and persistent capacity gaps

03. Case study summaries

The following summaries present each of the 16 submissions in turn. For every case, the table records the organization and context, a brief summary of the approach, the recommendations it offers for integrating gender into the NAP process, and the challenges and barriers it identifies. The NETZ submission, which consists of field narratives rather than policy analysis, is listed in the Annex but not summarized here. The summaries preserve the substance of each submission to support traceability; the cross-cutting patterns are discussed in Section 2 and the conclusion.



Table 1. Summary of case studies, recommendations, and challenges/barriers[2]

(#1) Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT – "How to integrate gender considerations in the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans – learnings and reflections from the Colombian case"

The Colombian case shows it is essential to include an intersectional perspective in NAPs; involve social movements, research actors, and international cooperation, engage rural men and women along with their social movements, and establish a gender team throughout the NAP design process.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Include an intersectional perspective that recognizes diverse vulnerabilities of rural women.
2. Design specific gender-sensitive adaptation measures for land and environment in conflict-affected areas.
3. Ensure gender mainstreaming goes beyond merely mentioning "women," viewing them as agents of change.
4. Involve rural men and women and social movements in the design process.
5. Ensure gender input has equal weight to technical input.
6. Avoid making participation an extra burden for women or harmful to cultural practices.
7. Avoid assumptions about rural women and men's needs in the NAPs design.
8. Evaluate NAPs frequently with beneficiaries and make adjustments.
9. Recognize that social issues cannot be separated from environmental issues.
10. Ensure that social movements, research actors, and international cooperation play a role in ensuring NAPs include meaningful gender and intersectional considerations.

Challenges/Barriers

- Gender-blind policies often fail to meet the needs of women and marginalized populations, as they tend to cater to men and dominant social groups.
- Intersectional power dynamics shaped by social identities in addition to gender (e.g., social class)
- Inadequate gender mainstreaming despite international commitments.
- Sexist nature of the agriculture sector, care economy issues, and armed conflict.
- Weak institutional position of gender in the government.
- Top-down policy design based on assumptions
- Policy implementers influenced by gendered norms hindering implementation.
- Lack of guarantee that women's needs are addressed despite gender-sensitive measures.
- Technical framing of climate issues that leaves little room for gender and social considerations.

2 Case summaries, recommendations and challenges/barriers in this section are drawn from the respective organizations' submissions to the LEG call for case studies on gender considerations in NAPs.

(#2) APSUTI (Asia-Pacific Sustainable Urban Transition Initiative) – "Gender Considerations in national adaptation plans (NAPs) through APSUTI"

This submission focuses on APSUTI's work within the Asia-Pacific region. APSUTI integrates gender into NAPs by ensuring women's representation in decision-making, using gender-disaggregated data for vulnerability assessments, employing participatory tools like community mapping, advocating for equitable resource allocation, building women's leadership capacity, and collaborating with women's organizations.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Ensure representation of women in all decision-making stages from the formulation to the implementation of NAPs.
2. Integrate traditional knowledge with modern adaptation science to ensure policies resonate with local communities.
3. Utilize data-driven, gender-responsive frameworks that address specific gender-based vulnerabilities in climate adaptation.
4. Undertake climate vulnerability assessments with a focus on gender-disaggregated data to identify where gender interventions are needed.
5. Engage communities through gender-inclusive workshops where women can share their knowledge and co-create solutions with experts.
6. Use participatory mapping and community-led adaptation planning tools to help women map their communities' vulnerabilities to climate change.
7. Develop gender-sensitive metrics to assess women's climate adaptation challenges.
8. Advocate for equitable resource allocation to improve women's access to urban services.
9. Provide capacity-building programmes to empower women leaders in climate governance.
10. Collaborate with women's organizations to strengthen gender integration in NAPs.
11. Prioritize feedback from women's groups to refine policies and ensure inclusivity.

Challenges/Barriers

The following challenges are inferred from the approach described; the submission does not set out challenges of its own:

- Unique vulnerabilities of rural, Indigenous, and marginalized women to climate impacts.
- Limited access to finance, information, and land rights restricts women's participation.
- Gender gaps in urban planning exclude women's needs and perspectives.
- Unequal resource distribution limits women's access to essential services.
- Underrepresentation of women in climate policy decision-making.
- Exclusion of traditional knowledge held by women in adaptation planning.





(#3) Climate Solution International – "The Role of Masculinity and Femininity Constructs in Shaping Public Discourse on Climate Change Denial and Acceptance"

This study proposes recommendations for NAPs to employ an intersectional lens and mainstream gender in risk/vulnerability assessments. Integrating gender considerations into climate planning requires culturally sensitive communication, promotion of women's participation in decision-making, addressing gendered cultural norms, and tailoring policies to regional economic, educational, and cultural contexts.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. NAPs should employ an intersectional approach to evaluating climate risks and provide targeted solutions for disadvantaged populations, ensuring projects address the needs of at-risk groups and incorporate gender mainstreaming in climate vulnerability and resilience assessments.
2. UNFCCC and climate communicators should address gender differences by reshaping climate messaging and improving gender representation in activism.
3. Increase women's participation in climate decision-making at all levels, including a UNFCCC gender working group.
4. Expand climate policy structures beyond developed/developing country categories; the GCF should prioritize region-specific adaptation projects.
5. Bridge the gap between knowledge and action by enhancing behavioral control through green technology, with support from international development agencies and climate funds.
6. Integrate gender considerations into climate policy; the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan should promote gender-inclusive environmental perceptions.
7. Adopt an intersectional approach in NAPs and Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage, incorporating gender-responsive risk assessments.
8. Develop gender-sensitive climate reporting guidelines, with media organizations and UNFCCC collaborating to track representation.
9. The IPCC should establish a task force on gender diversity; the UNFCCC should expand its Gender Action Plan to include LGBTQ+ considerations.
10. Reframe environmental action in terms of masculine-typed traits such as strength, protection and leadership, and establish a UNFCCC working group on gender-transformative approaches to climate action.
11. Incorporate cultural and psychological dimensions into climate policy; the IPCC should report on regional policy acceptance, and climate finance mechanisms should support trust-building initiatives.
12. Prioritize mixed-methods climate research, with the IPCC establishing guidelines for intersectional studies.



(#3) Climate Solution International – "The Role of Masculinity and Femininity Constructs in Shaping Public Discourse on Climate Change Denial and Acceptance" (continued)

Challenges/Barriers

- Gender-blind policies overlook gender-specific vulnerabilities and adaptation needs.
- Binary gender focus excludes non-binary and LGBTQ+ perspectives in climate policies.
- Western-centric bias limits understanding of gender-environment interactions in diverse cultures.
- Knowledge-behavior gap hinders climate action, with limited research on gendered differences.
- Media influence reinforces masculine-coded narratives, reducing climate concern and policy support.
- Lack of intersectional approaches ignores how gender intersects with race, class, and sexuality in climate vulnerability.
- Methodological limitations restrict comprehensive, transferable climate research findings.
- Limited LGBTQ+ perspectives in climate studies overlook unique risks and vulnerabilities.
- Traditional masculine norms associate masculinity with dominance over nature, fueling climate denial.
- Existing policies fail to address complex vulnerabilities of women, especially women of color and low-income communities.

(#4) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – "Scaling up agriculture and gender programmes under the UNFCCC"

This study has a global focus, specifically including Ethiopia, Senegal and Uganda (representing sub-Saharan Africa). The "Scaling Up Agriculture and Gender Programmes" initiative integrated gender into NAPs through gender-responsive planning, communities of practice, knowledge products, capacity building, leadership training, and engagement of women and gender experts, ensuring alignment with climate action frameworks and empowering women in agriculture.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Mainstream gender into NAPs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to ensure agricultural policies align with the global gender and climate goals.
2. Develop and use knowledge products such as policy briefs and compendiums of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices to guide gender-sensitive adaptation measures.
3. Implement capacity building initiatives through national-level workshops focusing on gender-responsive policymaking in agriculture and climate change.
4. Ensure active participation of women, including rural and Indigenous women, in tailored workshops and communities of practice.
5. Establish mentorship programmes pairing emerging female leaders with experienced negotiators to enhance their advocacy skills for gender equality in climate adaptation policies.
6. Integrate gender equality into NAPs through knowledge-sharing sessions, aligning with national climate action frameworks.
7. Advance the Gender Action Plan's (GAP) five priority areas, which include gender balance, coherence, and means of implementation.
8. Implement gender-responsive CSA practices to empower women and address gender-based challenges in agriculture.

Challenges/Barriers

The following challenges are inferred from the approach described; the submission does not set out challenges of its own:

- Lack of gender integration in NAPs and NDCs, requiring stronger mainstreaming efforts.
- Limited knowledge of gender-inclusive strategies among policymakers and planners.
- Insufficient capacity for gender-responsive policymaking, requiring targeted training.
- Low participation of women, especially rural and Indigenous women, in adaptation planning.
- Inadequate leadership and advocacy skills among women in climate policy spaces.
- Gaps in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), hindering progress.
- Challenges in applying gender-responsive CSA practices in agriculture adaptation.
- Lack of alignment between gender-focused adaptation efforts and national climate frameworks.

(#5) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – "Integrating gender in the formulation of national adaptation plans (NAPs) in Togo"

Togo has integrated gender into its NAP by involving the Ministry of Social Action, Solidarity and the Advancement of Women, training staff on gender and climate change, using gender-sensitive criteria for prioritizing adaptation options, conducting gender and vulnerability studies, and ensuring women's participation in consultations and training.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Integrate gender at all steps of NAP and Regional Adaptation Plan (RAP) processes.
2. Ensure the participation of women in all activities, with a commitment to at least 40% women's participation.
3. Prioritize training on gender and climate change to build gender-responsive NAP process.
4. Identify adaptation options based on vulnerability to climate hazards of each stakeholder and social groups, using a multi-criteria matrix that includes gender-sensitive criteria.
5. Conduct baseline gender studies at national and sub-national levels to fill gaps in gender data and information.
6. Carry out gender vulnerability studies in key sectors (such as agriculture, forestry, and water resources) to understand the vulnerabilities of different social groups.
7. Engage women, gender experts, and women's organizations in the formulation and implementation of NAPs and RAPs.
8. Involve gender focal points and planning officers from key ministries in gender-sensitive budgeting.
9. Use the FAO and UNDP guide for trainers on "Gender in adaptation planning for the agriculture sectors" as a key tool.[3]
10. Ensure gender issues are considered at various stages of the adaptation planning process.

Challenges/Barriers

- The initial NAP process was conducted only at the central level, which limited the involvement of communities at the local level.
- Stakeholder engagement was limited to national actors and did not include groups that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- There is a need to improve the analysis, prioritization, and implementation of concrete measures to ensure a gender-responsive NAP process and gender-equitable adaptation investments at the sub-national level.
- Gaps in gender data and information existed at both national and sub-national levels, which needed to be addressed with baseline studies.
- There was a need to understand the vulnerability of different social groups (men, women, youth, single mothers, the elderly, people with disabilities) in their areas of activity in key sectors like agriculture, forestry and water resources.



3 Available at: https://www.adaptation-undp.org/resources/training-tools/gender-adaptation-planning-agriculture-sectors-guide-trainers

(#6) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – "Integrating gender considerations into the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs)"

This submission mentions the participation of Colombia, the Gambia, Kenya, Nepal, The Philippines, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zambia in FAO-UNDP workshops. FAO and UNDP have successfully integrated gender into NAPs by providing training workshops to enhance gender-related skills and using the Climate Action Review (CAR) tool to prioritize adaptation actions that promote gender equality and social inclusion.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Provide training for adaptation planners on integrating gender into adaptation planning. This includes workshops and curriculum development covering various aspects such as conceptual foundations, gender-responsive planning, and gender analysis.
2. Utilize the Climate Action Review (CAR) Tool to screen adaptation actions for transformative, gender-responsive potential. The CAR tool helps assess and prioritize adaptation actions with the highest transformative impact, including contributions to gender equality and social inclusion.
3. Conduct participatory consultations using the CAR Tool. This involves bringing together stakeholders to discuss and interpret results, and to agree on how to implement identified actions. The CAR tool and related Handbook are available online.[4]

Challenges/Barriers

The following challenges are inferred from the approach described; the submission does not set out challenges of its own:

- Lack of knowledge and skills among stakeholders for gender-responsive adaptation planning.
- Need for practical tools to assess and prioritize gender-inclusive adaptation actions.
- Limited stakeholder engagement in adaptation planning and implementation.
- Challenges in transitioning from planning to implementation of gender-responsive actions.



4 Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/baf332d2-12a3-4d46-a986-f4cdffodb3c3

(#7) Green Climate Fund (GCF) – "Response: Call for case studies on gender considerations in NAPs launched by the NAP Technical Working Group"

The GCF integrates gender into NAPs through multifaceted strategies such as gender-responsive planning and budgeting, inclusive decision-making, and gender-transformative approaches, while also empowering women through initiatives like entrepreneurship programmes and financial support, ensuring equitable participation and benefits in climate resilience efforts.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Implement gender-responsive planning and budgeting, supported by checklists and financial allocations to address distinct gender priorities.
2. Ensure inclusive decision-making by actively involving women, youth, and marginalized groups, incorporating their knowledge into policies and actions.
3. Provide capacity building on gender integration to stakeholders, including training in transformative approaches, gender budgeting, and monitoring frameworks.
4. Address vulnerabilities by focusing on actions that improve adaptive capacity for those disproportionately affected by climate change, such as women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities.
5. Use gender-transformative approaches that go beyond neutrality, addressing gender disparities, and ensuring equitable access to resources, decision-making, and climate resilience efforts.
6. Incorporate a monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework with gender-specific indicators to track both qualitative and quantitative outcomes.
7. Support projects that empower women as rural entrepreneurs and agents of change through targeted training and resources.
8. Offer leadership training programmes that combine technical knowledge with practical skills like public speaking and community engagement.
9. Improve women's economic opportunities through financial literacy and training in income-generating activities.
10. Promote innovative approaches to resilience, such as raising homesteads above flood levels, homestead gardening, and the construction of slatted sheds.

Challenges/Barriers

The following challenges are inferred from the approach described; the submission does not set out challenges of its own:

- Lack of meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making.
- Capacity building may be ineffective if training lacks relevance, follow-up, or resources.
- Resistance to gender-transformative approaches from individuals and institutions.
- Shifting from gender-neutral to transformative approaches requires more resources and capacity.
- Monitoring and evaluation challenges due to unclear gender indicators and weak data collection.
- Securing funding for gender-responsive projects can be difficult if seen as a lower priority.
- Integrating gender across all sectors is challenging due to a lack of expertise and understanding.
- Community-level implementation may struggle to reach marginalized women.
- Sustaining gender-responsive interventions is difficult without ongoing financial and technical support.
- Overcoming patriarchal resistance may hinder gender-equitable adaptation efforts.



(#8) NAP Global Network – "Gender analysis to inform adaptation planning"

Gender analysis, a key tool for gender-responsive adaptation planning, enhances the understanding of gender differences in resource distribution, roles, and power dynamics. It leads to the integration of gender considerations into adaptation policies, strategies, and planning documents. The process of conducting gender analysis increases awareness, facilitates dialogue, and fosters connections among actors working on gender and climate change.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Systematically integrate gender into NAP policies, strategies, and planning documents.
2. Ensure continuous capacity building to enhance knowledge of gender-responsive adaptation.
3. Apply gender analysis findings throughout all stages of adaptation planning and implementation.
4. Strengthen collaboration between gender experts and climate adaptation practitioners.
5. Allocate dedicated financial and human resources for gender integration in NAPs.
6. Embed gender considerations in monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) processes with clear accountability mechanisms.
7. Increase engagement of diverse stakeholders in gender analysis processes.
8. Improve dissemination of gender analysis findings to inform decision-making.
9. Ensure gender is mainstreamed across sectors in adaptation planning.
10. Promote ongoing reflection and learning to adapt strategies based on gender-related insights.

Challenges/Barriers

- Missed opportunities to maximize the impact of gender analyses.
- Insufficient engagement of key stakeholders in gender analysis processes.
- Inadequate dissemination of gender analysis findings, limiting uptake and application.
- Viewing gender analysis only as a planning tool, rather than integrating it throughout adaptation.
- Gender analysis not applied in implementation and MEL, reducing long-term learning.
- Lack of clear accountability in integrating gender analysis into decision-making.
- Need for ongoing reflection and learning processes to adapt gender strategies over time.



(#9) NAP Global Network – "Integration of gender considerations in NAP documents"

NAP documents increasingly reference gender, often position women as particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts (though less frequently as agents of change), and sometimes include government gender institutions, gender-related implementation strategies, capacity strengthening, and gender integration in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) efforts.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

The following recommendations are inferred from gaps identified in the reviewed NAP documents:

1. **Recognize women as agents of change in adaptation efforts.**
2. **Ensure gender is integrated into implementation strategies, not just mentioned in planning.**
3. **Prioritize gender-responsive approaches, moving beyond gender sensitivity.**
4. **Strengthen the integration of gender in MEL to ensure systematic tracking and evaluation.**
5. **Expand capacity-building efforts to address gaps in gender and adaptation knowledge.**
6. **Formally engage national gender institutions in NAP development and implementation.**

Challenges/Barriers

- **Women's roles in adaptation are undervalued, with only 16% of NAPs recognizing them as agents of change.[5]**
- **Gender is inconsistently integrated into implementation, with just over half of NAPs showing evidence of action beyond mentions.**
- **Gender-responsive approaches remain limited, with many NAPs not moving beyond gender sensitivity.**
- **Weak integration of gender in MEL, with only 62% of NAPs referencing gender in monitoring and evaluation.**
- **Capacity gaps persist, despite 64% of NAPs including gender-related capacity strengthening.**
- **Institutional engagement is inconsistent, with some NAPs not formally involving national gender ministries.**

5 Figures cited in this case (16%, 62% and 64%) are drawn from Dazé and Hunter, *Advancing gender-responsive national adaptation plan (NAP) processes: State of play and promising examples* (NAP Global Network synthesis report, forthcoming); see References.

(#10) NAP Global Network – "Strengthening institutional arrangements and capacities for gender-responsive NAP process"

To ensure a gender-responsive process, countries are engaging government institutions responsible for gender equality, establishing coordination mechanisms, conducting training, developing gender and climate change strategies, and embedding gender advisors within NAP teams. The institutional arrangements for the NAP process strongly influence the approach adopted, and these arrangements identify adaptation priorities, decide resource allocation, and track progress. Having gender-balanced mechanisms that include gender expertise and government institutions responsible for gender equality increases the likelihood of a gender-responsive NAP process.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. **Ensure gender-balanced institutional arrangements for the NAP process.**
2. **Include gender expertise within the NAP process.**
3. **Ensure the inclusion of government institutions responsible for gender equality in the NAP process.**
4. **Engage government institutions responsible for gender equality by giving the gender ministry a formalized role in the NAP process.**
5. **Establish specific coordination mechanisms for gender-responsive climate action, such as a gender and climate change platform or working group.**
6. **Conduct training for relevant actors across different institutions involved in the NAP process to strengthen their capacity to mainstream Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). This involves training needs assessments and the delivery of regular training sessions.**
7. **Develop gender and climate change strategies to guide the integration of gender in the NAP and other climate-related policies.**
8. **Embed gender advisors within the NAP team to ensure gender issues are addressed throughout all NAP process activities.**

Challenges/Barriers

- **Lack of gender balance in institutional arrangements reduces gender responsiveness in NAPs.**
- **Insufficient gender expertise within the NAP process limits effective gender integration.**
- **Exclusion of government institutions responsible for gender equality weakens coordination.**
- **Lack of formalized roles for gender ministries hinders their engagement in adaptation planning.**
- **Absence of specific coordination mechanisms for gender and climate change integration.**
- **Insufficient capacity of NAP actors to mainstream Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).**
- **Lack of gender and climate change strategies impedes structured gender-responsive planning.**
- **Absence of embedded gender advisors in NAP teams limits institutional gender expertise.**

(#11) NAP Global Network – "Gender-Responsive national adaptation plan (NAP) Processes: Progress and promising examples"

Countries are increasingly integrating gender considerations into their NAP process by framing gender issues with a nuanced, intersectional perspective, recognizing women as agents of change, using gender analysis to inform adaptation planning, integrating gender considerations into institutional arrangements and MEL, and building capacity on gender and climate change. Visual storytelling and gender analysis are successful tools for ensuring gender-responsive adaptation planning, while formalizing institutional arrangements and capacity building of government actors enhance gender mainstreaming in climate action (Dazé & Hunter, 2022).

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Apply an intersectional gender lens throughout all stages of the NAP process, from assessing vulnerabilities to tracking progress, ensuring that gender considerations shape planning, implementation, and evaluation.
2. Analyze how people's needs and capacities for adaptation differ across genders and social groups, understanding the structural reasons behind these differences.
3. Promote equitable participation in adaptation decision-making by actively including diverse voices, particularly women and other marginalized groups who are often underrepresented.
4. Assess who benefits from adaptation investments and identify groups that may be left behind, ensuring that adaptation measures address the needs of all genders and social groups.
5. Utilize gender analysis as a key tool for exploring disparities, identifying barriers, and applying an intersectional approach to adaptation planning.
6. Build the capacity of gender focal points in relevant ministries to support gender-responsive adaptation processes and decision-making.
7. Ensure equitable access to information, services, and markets, and provide targeted support for women's entrepreneurship, particularly in agribusinesses.
8. Use inclusive language that fosters consensus on gender equality, framing discussions in terms of equality, human rights, and shared adaptation benefits.
9. Meaningfully engage civil society organizations and gender experts in the NAP process to strengthen gender integration and ensure representation of diverse perspectives.
10. Collect gender-disaggregated data and track specific indicators to monitor the participation of women and gender-focused organizations in adaptation planning.
11. Ensure monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems track gender outcomes, embedding gender-disaggregated indicators to assess progress and impact.
12. Develop indicators to track women's group participation in the NAP process, ensuring their roles are recognized and strengthened over time.
13. Provide training on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) for volunteers working in disaster zones, ensuring gender-sensitive crisis response.
14. Formalize collaboration between environment and gender ministries through memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to improve coordination on gender-responsive adaptation.
15. Ensure equitable access to adaptation finance and other resources, removing structural barriers that limit women's and marginalized groups' ability to benefit from adaptation funding.

Challenges/Barriers

- Existing gender inequalities are worsened by crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted women and girls, increasing poverty and vulnerability.
- Socio-cultural resistance to gender-responsive approaches can create barriers to women's participation in adaptation planning, including beliefs that justify gender-based violence.
- Women are underrepresented in climate decision-making across the public, private, and non-governmental sectors, affecting both rights and adaptation outcomes.
- People with intersectional identities, such as those with disabilities, are often excluded from climate discussions and adaptation planning.
- Adaptation actions do not automatically promote gender equality, and without intentional focus, they may fail to provide equitable benefits.
- Barriers to women's access to and control over land and natural resources limit their ability to participate fully in adaptation efforts.
- Women are often framed as vulnerable in NAPs but not as active stakeholders, limiting their role in adaptation planning.
- Gaps in knowledge on gender and climate change persist, with national actors having uneven understanding of the linkages.
- A lack of recent gender data hinders informed decision-making and effective gender-responsive adaptation strategies.
- Gender balance in participation does not guarantee equal influence, as men continue to dominate speaking time in key climate discussions.
- Challenges in using gender-related language to build consensus may arise when other forms of discrimination are seen as higher priorities.
- Limited capacity development for gender-responsive NAP process highlights the need for stronger training for both climate change and gender actors.



(#12) UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – "Utilizing the Sendai GAP in DRR and adaptation planning"

The integration of the Sendai GAP into disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning, as seen in countries like Nepal, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, ensures clear gender equality goals, mechanisms, and budgets in laws, policies, strategies, plans, and programming relevant to disaster risk reduction, aligning with international treaties and agreements.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Integrate the Sendai GAP into DRR planning in alignment with international treaties and agreements on sustainable development, human rights, the environment, and climate change.
2. Ensure clear gender equality goals, gender-responsive mechanisms, and adequate budgets for their implementation in laws, policies, strategies, plans, and programming related to DRR.
3. Use gender-sensitive processes, policies and plans that recognize the different roles, responsibilities, capacities and contributions of men, women, youth and older persons.
4. Promote government collaboration with national women's machineries and other gender equality stakeholders.
5. Contextualize the Sendai GAP within the ongoing development of NAPs.

Challenges/Barriers

- Few national legislative and policy frameworks, strategies, or plans for DRR explicitly include gender equality as a policy objective.
- Even where gender equality is included in DRR activities or equality laws, there is often a lack of clear responsibility and budget for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of gender equality outcomes.



(#13) UN Environment Programme – "National Adaptation Planning: Emerging Lessons Learned from UNEP Projects"

To integrate gender considerations in NAPs, gender-sensitive risk assessments, gender-responsive adaptation measures, and gender-disaggregated indicators are needed, potentially requiring engagement with gender groups and specialists.

(#13) UN Environment Programme – "National Adaptation Planning: Emerging Lessons Learned from UNEP Projects" (continued)

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Ensure balanced participation of all gender groups by engaging men, women, and non-binary stakeholders, incorporating separate consultations and onboarding gender specialists.
2. Conduct gender-sensitive risk assessments to identify how climate impacts affect different groups.
3. Identify gender-responsive and transformative adaptation measures to address inequalities in adaptation planning.
4. Develop viable gender-disaggregated indicators to track progress and measure impact.
5. Create gender-sensitive and inclusive stakeholder engagement strategies to ensure diverse voices are represented.
6. Integrate traditional knowledge and Indigenous expertise into climate knowledge systems and the NAP process to strengthen adaptation strategies.
7. Develop and implement a detailed stakeholder engagement plan, leveraging partnerships with organizations that have existing community networks.
8. Ensure stakeholder engagement strategies are gender-sensitive and inclusive, amplifying the voices of vulnerable groups to enhance local ownership and long-term implementation.
9. Use training initiatives and manuals to provide structured guidance on mainstreaming gender in climate change projects and programmes.
10. Engage senior leadership in championing the NAP process, recognizing it as a cross-sectoral strategic intervention that elevates climate action.

Challenges/Barriers

- Engaging key stakeholders in the NAP process is challenging, as limited outreach can reduce acceptance of adaptation options.
- Travel and engagement restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic hindered inclusivity in stakeholder consultations.
- Limited resources and budgets make it difficult to conduct inclusive national stakeholder engagement.
- Conducting gender-sensitive risk assessments and developing gender-responsive adaptation measures and indicators remains a challenge.
- Lack of participation from key sector ministries weakens coordination when environmental ministries lead the NAP process alone.
- Estimating government spending on adaptation is difficult due to the absence of budget coding and tracking systems.
- Providing accurate cost estimates for sectoral adaptation measures is hindered by insufficient research data.
- Mainstreaming climate change into national planning requires an institutional paradigm shift, rather than minor adjustments to existing practices.
- Creating new legislation and updating policy frameworks for adaptation is a lengthy and complex process.
- Securing local and national climate finance for adaptation actions is often difficult.
- Developing clear investment plans with demonstrated returns for stakeholders is necessary to support NAP implementation.



(#14) UNICEF – “Child-Responsive Adaptation in West and Central Africa, Annex: Child-Focused List of Quotes from the NAPs and ADCOMs of West and Central African Countries”

This annex compiles quotations from the NAPs and adaptation communications (ADCOMs) of 13 West and Central African countries, grouped by theme. Under the theme on women and gender integration, it records how countries frame gender in their guiding principles, what their vulnerability analyses attribute to gender, and which adaptation measures they propose. The entries below are drawn from those quoted passages.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Recognize women as major actors in society whose interests and contributions are taken into account at all levels of the adaptation strategy, and not only as a vulnerable group.
2. Compile the practices and instruments used to integrate social and gender concerns in adaptation projects and programmes, and improve gender mainstreaming in sectoral policies and plans at their next review.
3. Develop tools to support gender mainstreaming, including gender assessment guides, participatory methodologies, a gender marker and checklists for projects and programmes, and train technical staff in their use.
4. Strengthen the capacity of the ministry responsible for gender and of other ministries involved in climate change, and build the capacity of local actors using existing gender mainstreaming guides.
5. Carry out a gender-sensitive institutional analysis of adaptation stakeholders, covering roles, responsibilities and power relations.
6. Set up a platform for inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder dialogue on gender.
7. Include gender-sensitive socio-economic analysis in adaptation plans at macro, meso and micro levels, with clear mechanisms, interventions and indicators to track progress.
8. Monitor ongoing and future planning processes, including NAP updates, to ensure social and gender issues are integrated.
9. Integrate gender into disaster risk reduction and post-crisis management, including gender-sensitive logical frameworks and assessment of social and gender impacts in post-disaster response.
10. Target adaptation measures at women's practical needs in water, energy and health, such as improved cooking stoves, solar and wind energy, water points designed around women's needs, and access to health services for mothers and children.
11. Ensure women participate in the design and monitoring of health and disaster prevention programmes.
12. Support research into adaptation practices that are beneficial and accessible to women.

(#14) UNICEF – “Child-Responsive Adaptation in West and Central Africa, Annex: Child-Focused List of Quotes from the NAPs and ADCOMs of West and Central African Countries” (continued)

Challenges/Barriers

- Women are more vulnerable to climate change impacts due to their dependence on climate-sensitive resources and face higher risks and burdens, especially in situations of poverty.
- Women have limited access to natural resources, particularly land, and experience unequal access to farming materials, inputs, and plant conservation products.
- Discriminatory socio-cultural norms hinder women’s access to education, health, employment, land, and decision-making roles, making them more vulnerable to climate change.
- Women bear the responsibility of collecting water and firewood, increasing their vulnerability and forcing them to travel long distances, sometimes facing risks.
- Women are more susceptible to health issues due to climate change, including heat-related mortality, waterborne diseases, and limited access to traditional products.
- Women are disproportionately affected by the lack of access to energy, which is essential for domestic needs.
- Women face difficulties accessing land and economic processes, and their incomes are more precarious during natural disasters, as they are often concentrated in lower-paying jobs with limited access to capital and credit.
- Women are underrepresented in climate change discussions, policymaking, and leadership roles, leading to biased decision-making.
- Unequal power relations can lead to increased gender-based violence against women.
- Indigenous women experience poverty, illiteracy, and loss of traditional knowledge, exacerbating their vulnerability to climate change.
- Women may lack access to legal information regarding their rights.

(#15) UNICEF – “Child-Responsive Adaptation in West and Central Africa: Placing children at the centre of climate adaptation policies and strategies.”

The reviewed NAPs and ADCOMs systematically reference the gendered dimension of adaptation, reflected in guiding principles, vulnerability analysis, and proposed measures. They identify women as agents of change and recognize their right to participate. The plans highlight barriers perpetuating gender inequality, sometimes referring explicitly to girls, and associate women's vulnerability with sectors like land access, livelihood, water, health, education, and energy. Most NAPs recommend actions contributing to gender mainstreaming, such as developing tools to support this mainstreaming. Some NAPs identify particularly vulnerable women, such as pregnant and lactating women, sometimes grouping them with children, and propose adaptation measures.



(#15) UNICEF – "Child-Responsive Adaptation in West and Central Africa: Placing children at the centre of climate adaptation policies and strategies."

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Systematically include references to the gendered dimension of adaptation in NAP Guiding Principles, vulnerability analysis, and proposed adaptation measures.
2. Recognize women as agents of change and their right to participate.
3. Acknowledge the barriers that perpetuate gender inequality and specifically address girls in addition to women.
4. Consider the vulnerability of women in various sectors, including access to land and means of livelihood, water, health, education, and energy.
5. Implement adaptation measures that contribute to gender mainstreaming, such as developing gender assessment guides and checklists, and using a gender marker.
6. Identify and address the needs of particularly vulnerable women, such as pregnant and lactating women, often grouping them with children.

Challenges/Barriers

- While NAPs often include gender considerations, there is a need for greater integration of child rights with gender mainstreaming as they are interconnected.
- Barriers that perpetuate gender inequality hinder women's and girls' ability to adapt to climate change, with limited education, cultural barriers, unequal social responsibilities, and low participation in decision-making increasing their vulnerability.
- Girls' specific vulnerabilities are often overlooked, as they are frequently grouped with women, though some NAPs highlight unique challenges such as time lost collecting water and risks faced when gathering firewood.
- Women's vulnerability is linked to multiple sectors, including access to land, livelihoods, water, health, education, and energy.
- Women face higher risks and greater burdens from climate change impacts, particularly in situations of poverty, where they make up the majority of the world's poor.
- Although women are recognized as agents of change with a right to participate, NAPs often lack concrete adaptation measures for gender mainstreaming, such as gender assessment guides, checklists, and gender markers.
- The needs of particularly vulnerable women, such as pregnant and lactating women, are often overlooked or grouped with children, despite their distinct vulnerabilities in climate-affected contexts.

(#16) UNICEF – "A Gender-Transformative Climate Change Programming Guide: Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean"

The guide emphasizes that NDCs are increasingly integrating gender dimensions and identifies a need to understand women as agents of change, advocating for mainstreaming gender into climate-related processes and strategies, while integrating tools and addressing structural barriers to achieve gender equality.

Recommendations for gender integration into NAPs

1. Prioritize understanding current discriminations and identify clear pathways toward gender equality through climate action by developing short-, medium-, and longer-term goals that are regularly monitored and reported on.
2. Collaborate with colleagues working on gender equality and climate change within offices, such as through a 'Gender Task Force' and/or 'Green Team,' to address the intersection of gender, climate change, and child rights.
3. Strengthen knowledge and capacity around the intersections between gender, climate change, and child rights among UNICEF teams, increasing staff understanding of how climate change impacts child rights, and developing key skills for gender-transformative climate change programming.
4. Open spaces for discussion, collaboration, participation, and decision-making, always working with women and girl-led organizations to ensure their perspectives are heard and they have a seat in decision-making processes.
5. Support innovation at the nexus of climate change, gender, and child rights by developing interventions, tools, and approaches, testing these, and generating case studies and models that can be replicated and scaled up in the sectors where UNICEF works.
6. Aim for holistic, long-term resilience, going beyond crisis interventions to tackle underlying causes of vulnerability and inequality, and combining DRR, humanitarian, and adaptation actions.
7. Allocate specific budget lines and adequate human resources with expertise in gender and climate change.
8. Develop cross-agency work with other United Nations agencies to support innovation, replication, and scaling up through access to information, learning, resources, and partnership opportunities.
9. Work with local organizations to reach the most vulnerable children, including those in poor households, from marginalized communities, without parental care, with disabilities, or living on the streets.

(#16) UNICEF – "A Gender-Transformative Climate Change Programming Guide: Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean" (continued)

Challenges/Barriers

- Child rights and gender equality are often not addressed together in intergovernmental climate change conventions, treaties, and declarations, highlighting the need for greater advocacy.
- Many international and regional climate change and risk management policies recognize the importance of women's participation and gender mainstreaming, but girls are often scarcely mentioned.
- A lack of gender- and age-disaggregated data on climate change impacts on children limits understanding of how diverse groups of children are affected.
- Some country reports on climate impacts on children are mostly gender-blind and lack direct consultation with children, demonstrating a need for stronger gender perspectives in these analyses.
- Many Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) do not meet criteria for child sensitivity, and while some integrate gender considerations, girls are primarily mentioned in terms of their vulnerability rather than their agency.
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and disaster risks due to structural inequalities and discriminatory practices that limit their access, use, and control of natural resources, mobility, and decision-making power.
- Women and girls bear the responsibility for collecting water and fuel, and climate-induced resource scarcity exacerbates their time poverty, limiting opportunities for education, income generation, and leisure.
- Disaster situations disrupt access to essential services for young women and girls, including maternal healthcare and contraceptive services, leading to significant health risks.
- Women and girls are often marginalized by climate change impacts and have less decision-making power to implement response and adaptation strategies.
- Gender-transformative programming is complex, long-term, and requires shifting negative attitudes and patriarchal gender norms while eliminating harmful practices.
- There is a need for increased investment in gender and climate change expertise, with adequate time and budgets to support the planning and implementation of gender-transformative programmes.



04. Challenges and obstacles

Most case studies identified challenges and obstacles to the effective integration of gender considerations. Where a submission described its approach without setting out challenges, these were inferred from the approach and are marked as such in the case summaries. The clusters are summarized in the table below, and the submissions contributing to each are listed in Annex table 2.

Table 2. Summary of identified challenges and obstacles



Gender-blind policies and decision-making

- Gender-blind adaptation approaches overlooking specific vulnerabilities and needs.
- Women's participation is often symbolic rather than substantive.
- Adaptation projects do not always consider intersectional identities (ethnicity, location, class, etc.).



Structural and institutional barriers

- Weak institutional positioning of gender in climate governance.
- Lack of dedicated budgets for gender-responsive adaptation.
- Limited engagement of gender ministries in NAP decision-making.



Lack of gender-disaggregated data and monitoring mechanisms

- Poor data collection making it difficult to track gender impacts and outcomes.
- Weak accountability frameworks resulting in limited follow-through on gender commitments.



Limited access to resources and finance

- Women face systematic barriers to land ownership, credit, and climate adaptation funds.
- Unequal resource distribution exacerbates gendered climate vulnerabilities.



Socio-cultural and normative constraints

- Traditional gender roles and patriarchal norms limit women's decision-making power.
- Climate adaptation policies often fail to recognize caregiving responsibilities and other unpaid labour roles.



Resistance to transformative approaches

- Gender-responsive adaptation often meets resistance from institutions and communities.
- Masculine-coded climate narratives that undermine gender-inclusive policies.



Climate disasters exacerbating gender inequalities

- Disasters disproportionately impact women, particularly widows, single mothers, and marginalized groups.
- Increased risks of gender-based violence and economic instability for women in post-disaster contexts.



Exclusion of Indigenous and traditional knowledge

- Women's and Indigenous groups' knowledge is often undervalued in formal adaptation planning.
- Lack of participatory adaptation approaches limits locally relevant gender solutions.

05. Conclusion

Promoting a gender-responsive approach in the formulation and implementation of NAPs entails a logical, interconnected, and comprehensive approach to addressing key vulnerabilities. Despite commitments to gender-responsive adaptation, there are persistent barriers such as weak institutional frameworks, gender-blind policies, limited finance, socio-cultural constraints, and gaps in gender-disaggregated data that hinder meaningful gender-responsive adaptation.
Addressing these issues requires bolstering of institutional commitments, equitable distribution of resources and finance, and structured accountability mechanisms to ensure that marginalized groups are meaningfully participating and benefiting equitably from adaptation efforts in a gender-balanced and gender-responsive manner.

The following key takeaways can inform and support strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities within the LDCs:

Ensuring gender-balanced and meaningful participation at all stages

Actively involve gender experts, women, and women's organizations, and ensure men and youth are included, across the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of NAPs, drawing on women's expertise and traditional knowledge to co-create solutions. Establish formal roles for gender ministries and focal points and train policymakers and implementers in gender-sensitive planning and budgeting.

Moving beyond gender mentions to transformative approaches

Integrate gender-responsive and transformative measures that directly address gender disparities, rather than treating gender as an add-on. Recognize intersecting vulnerabilities such as gender, ethnicity, rural location, disability, and socio-economic status, and design context-specific measures that account for conflict-affected areas, Indigenous knowledge, and local customs, supported by awareness-raising and education on gender issues and inequities.

Using gender-disaggregated data and vulnerability assessments

Use baseline studies, climate vulnerability assessments, and participatory mapping with gender-disaggregated data to inform adaptation decisions and link these data requirements to the updated UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines (2025). Embed gender-specific indicators in monitoring and evaluation, and strengthen accountability through gender audits, reporting mechanisms, and follow-ups.

Providing equitable access to resources and climate finance

Ensure gender-balanced access to adaptation resources such as land, seeds, water, finance, and training, and prioritize equitable resource allocation in adaptation investments and climate funds.

Developing gender-sensitive communication and awareness campaigns

Adapt climate messaging to address gender differences in climate perception and engagement, and tackle cultural norms that reinforce gender inequalities in adaptation.



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06. Annexes

Annex table 1.
List of case study submissions with context and geographic focus

#	Organization	Title of submission	Context / Submission information	Geographic focus
1	Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT	"How to integrate gender considerations in the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans – learnings and reflections from Colombian case"	CGIAR Initiative – "National Policies and Strategies for the Transformation of Food, Land, and Water Systems"	Latin America and the Caribbean Colombia case study
2	APSUTI (Asia-Pacific Sustainable Urban Transition Initiative)	"Gender Considerations in national adaptation plans (NAPs) through APSUTI"	Sustainable urban transition within the Asia-Pacific region, APSUTI's strategies emphasize gender responsiveness.	Asia-Pacific
3	Climate Solution International	"The Role of Masculinity and Femininity Constructs in Shaping Public Discourse on Climate Change Denial and Acceptance"	This study investigates how gender and sexuality influence climate change perceptions and responses across diverse global contexts	Developing regions
4	FAO	"Scaling Up Agriculture and Gender Programmes Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)"	Scaling Up Agriculture and Gender Programmes	Global Cases included: Ethiopia, Senegal and Uganda (representing sub-Saharan Africa)
5	FAO	"Integrating gender in the formulation of national adaptation plans (NAPs) in Togo"	GCP/TOG/022/GCR "Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Effective Climate Risk Management," FAO as Delivery Partner, approved on 25-Mar-2022 by the GCF.	Togo, Africa
6	FAO	"Integrating gender considerations in the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs)"	This study summarizes two successful approaches/tools to ensuring gender responsive adaptation planning. The Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag) programme and the Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land use and Agriculture Through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) programme.	Global FAO-UNDP workshop participants: Colombia, the Gambia, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zambia
7	GCF	"Response: Call for case studies on gender considerations in NAPs launched by the NAP Technical Working Group"	The GCF's gender responsiveness is grounded in its Gender Policy, first adopted in 2015 and updated in 2019. This submission features the following: • "Gender Integration into GCF's Support for the Formulation of NAPs: The Zambia Case" • "Strengthening Climate Resilience in Zambia – SCRALA project" • "FP087 – Empowering Women in Guatemala" • "SAP007 – Transforming Livelihoods in Zimbabwe" • "SAP008 – Building Flood Resilience in Bangladesh"	Global Cases included: Zambia, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh
8	NAP Global Network	"Gender analysis to inform adaptation planning"	Successful approaches or tools in ensuring gender-responsive adaptation planning	Global Country gender analyses: Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Senegal, Togo

Continued Annex table 1.
List of case study submissions with context and geographic focus

#	Organization	Title of submission	Context / Submission information	Geographic focus
9	NAP Global Network	"Integration of gender considerations in NAP documents"	How gender has been integrated into NAPs	Global
10	NAP Global Network	"Strengthening institutional arrangements and capacities for gender-responsive NAP process"	Successful approaches or tools in ensuring gender-responsive adaptation planning	Global Examples: Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Haiti, Liberia
11	NAP Global Network	"Gender-Responsive national adaptation plan (NAP) Processes: Progress and promising examples"	NAP Global Network Synthesis Report, 2021-2022	Global
–	NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice	"From Climate Vulnerability to Climate Resilience" – two field case studies: "Ms. Alpona and her Sparkling Journey" and "Boundless Suffering of Widow Ms. Saifa"	Community-level case studies of extremely poor and women-headed households, drawn from the 2021 NETZ feasibility study (Dr. Md. Barkat Ullah) and delivered with partner NGOs BARCIK and Pollishree. Field narratives of lived experience; the submission does not set out recommendations for the NAP process and is therefore not summarized in Section 3 or included in the thematic analysis.	Bangladesh (LDC) Satkhira (saline coastal) and Dinajpur (drought-prone)
12	UNDRR	"Utilising the Sendai GAP in DRR and adaptation planning"	Sendai GAP	Global Examples: Nepal, Cambodia, Lao PDR
13	UNEP	"Policy Brief – National Adaptation Planning: Emerging Lessons Learned from UNEP Projects"	This submission features the following: • "Inclusiveness, Adaptation Gap Report Description of Inclusiveness" • "Case Study: Zimbabwe Gender Mainstreaming Approach" • "Potential for implementation, Adaptation Gap Report Description of Potential for Implementation" • "Case Study: Zimbabwe Climate Adaptation Finance Strategy" • "Integration, Adaptation Gap Report Description of Integration"	Global Cases included: Zimbabwe
14	UNICEF	"Child-Focused List of Quotes from the NAPs and ADCOMs of West and Central African Countries"	Child-responsive adaptation in West and Central Africa: Placing children at the centre of climate adaptation policies and strategies	West and Central Africa
15	UNICEF	"Child-responsive adaptation in West and Central Africa: Placing children at the centre of climate adaptation policies and strategies"	"Theme IV: Women and gender integration"	West and Central Africa
16	UNICEF	"A Gender-Transformative Climate Change Programming Guide: Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean"	Gender and child rights in national climate plans and commitments	Latin America and the Caribbean

Note: the NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice submission consists of field case studies without recommendations for the NAP process. It is listed here in alphabetical order but is not numbered, not summarized in Section 3, and not included in Annex table 2; the numbering therefore corresponds throughout to the 16 submissions analysed.

Annex table 2. Coverage of cross-cutting themes and barriers across the 16 submissions

Cross-cutting theme or barrier	Contributing submissions	Count (of 16)
Recurring recommendations		
Meaningful participation and engagement of women, gender experts and women's organizations	1–5, 7, 8, 11–16	13
Strengthening institutional arrangements and capacity	1, 4–14, 16	13
Recognizing women as agents of change; transformative and intersectional approaches	1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13–16	10
Gender analysis, gender-disaggregated data and indicators in monitoring and evaluation	2, 5, 7–9, 11, 13, 14	8
Equitable access to resources and climate finance	2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16	8
Gender-sensitive communication and awareness-raising	3, 5, 8, 11, 16	5
Recurring barriers		
Gender-blind policies and decision-making	1–9, 11–16	15
Structural and institutional barriers	1, 4–7, 9–13, 16	11
Lack of gender-disaggregated data and monitoring mechanisms	5, 7–9, 11–13, 16	8
Limited access to resources and finance	2, 7, 11, 13–16	7
Socio-cultural and normative constraints	1, 7, 11, 14–16	6
Resistance to transformative approaches	3, 7, 11, 16	4
Climate disasters exacerbating gender inequalities	11, 14, 16	3
Exclusion of Indigenous and traditional knowledge	2, 14	2