



Gender Mainstreaming in National Adaption Plan (NAP) of Bangladesh

Context

Gender equality is a universal human right, as acknowledged with the adoption of various international covenants including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-1979). Gender equality is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where it is included as both a stand-alone goal (SDG 5) and a cross-cutting issue integrated across a number of other goals. The principle of 'leaving no one behind' is the essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underscoring that gender equality is central to the achievement of all 17 SDGs

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has adopted a host of decisions and developed a series of guidance documents to enable a gender-responsive approach to climate policy and action.

During the past decade, the UNFCCC has made major strides in integrating gender across all of its mandated areas. The Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) was launched in 2014. In 2015, the Paris Agreement recognized the need for gender equality as a preambular principle for all climate action. The LWPG was extended for three years in 2016, and a two-year gender action plan (GAP) was adopted in 2017. In 2019, the implementation of the LWPG and GAP was reviewed, and a five-year Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.25) was adopted at COP25.

In the Paris Agreement, Article 7 on adaptation acknowledges that adaptation should follow a gender-responsive approach. In response to various relevant UNFCCC decisions, The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the Adaptation Committee under the UNFCCC drafted Technical Guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process in 2012, followed by a Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in 2019 which informed the NAP development process of Bangladesh.



SDGs related to Gender

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of Bangladesh has been approved by the Cabinet of Government of Bangladesh on 31 October 2022. It was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), aiming for a viable path to climate-resilient development and reduced climate risks and vulnerabilities. The NAP has relied heavily on extensive stakeholder consultations for receiving feedbacks and views on climate change effects. The NAP was developed in a participatory and inclusive manner by giving high priority to the special needs of men and women, people of all ages including children, youth and the elderly, people with diverse gender identities, persons with disabilities, ethnic communities and other disadvantaged groups.

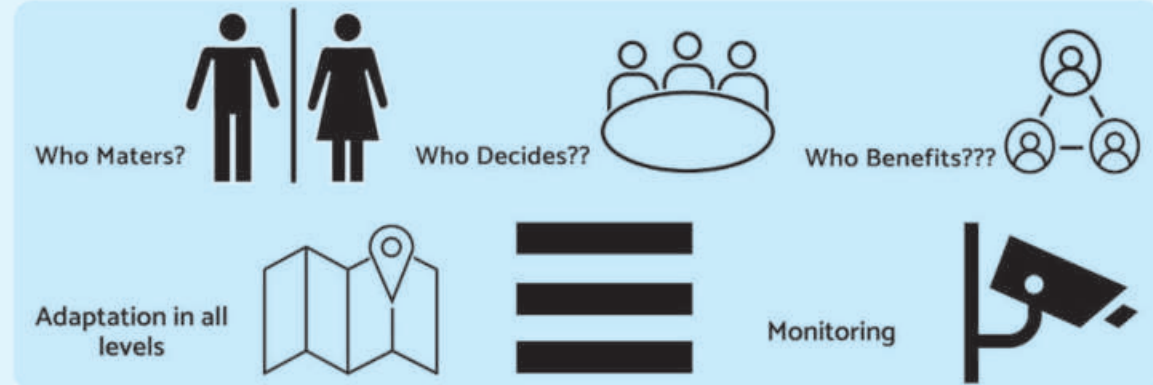
Gender in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of Bangladesh

Building a climate-resilient nation through effective adaptation strategies, that foster a robust society and ecosystems and stimulate sustainable economic growth, is the vision of the NAP of Bangladesh. Six national adaptation goals, 23 strategies and 113 adaptation interventions have been set to achieve this vision. The NAP formulation process ensured an inclusive approach and fortified engagement with the participation of women, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups in every stage and devised NAP strategies and adaptation interventions for short (2030), medium (2041) and long-term (2050) time horizons. As a result, a gender-responsive and socially inclusive enabling environment for adaptation has been established and gender transformative change will be embedded into climate resilient development actions throughout the implementation of the NAP.



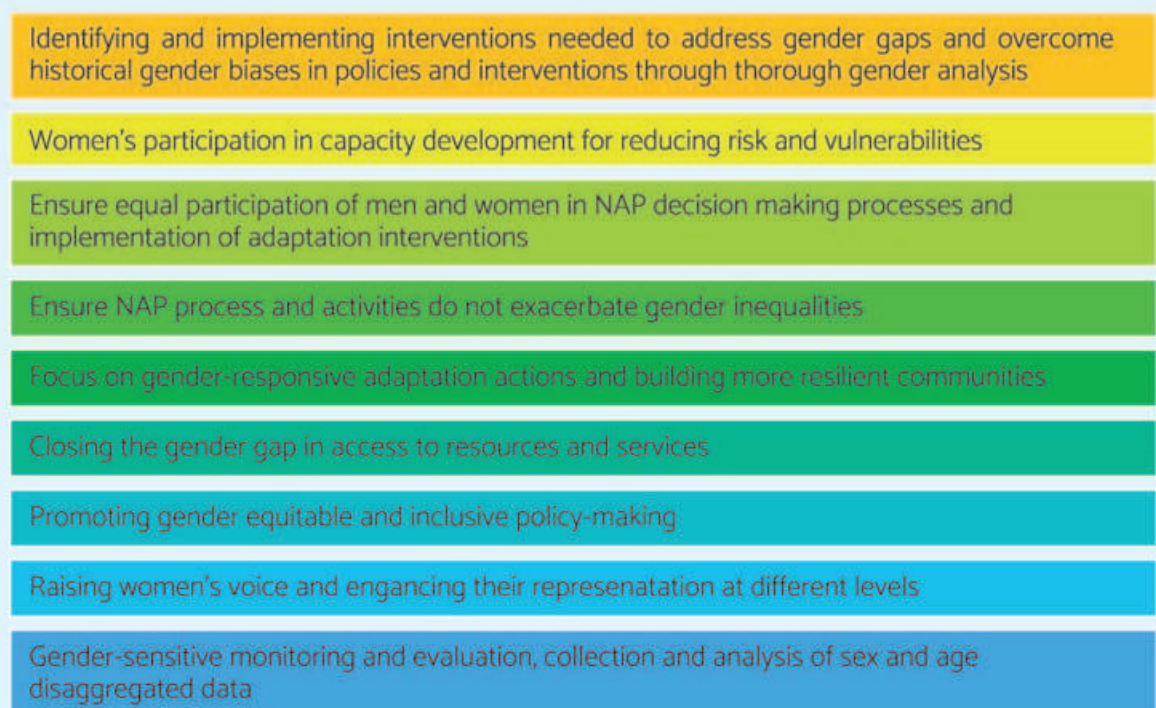
Gender Sensitivity on the Process of NAP Formulation

Gender responsive and gender inclusive climate adaptation is an essential guiding principle of the NAP formulation.



The NAP process has provided an opportunity to address existing gender inequalities and meaningfully promote women's empowerment. It considers to actively engage those whose voices are not always heard and it ensures that adaptation actions respond to the differing needs and priorities of women and men of all segments of society.

Keeping this in mind, the following gender integration actions were pursued throughout the 6 steps of NAP formulation:



In order to ensure adequate gender mainstreaming, the NAP development process paid required attention to gender equality considerations throughout the iterative steps of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the adaptation interventions. The elaboration of the NAP actively considered gender issues in all aspects including institutional arrangements, capacity development and financing. The document therefore aims to reach way beyond the binary consideration of women and men and through an intersectional approach it explores how gender and social norms influence vulnerability to climate change and how they interact with other factors, such as age, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. Consequently, climate adaptation efforts will promote gender equality and women's empowerment and will address preexisting challenges that had led to the marginalization of specific groups.

Climate Change related Risks and Vulnerabilities of Women Identified in the NAP

The exposure to climate stress and climate vulnerabilities of women, children, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities is different from men due to pre-existing structural social, political and economic inequalities. In the NAP preparation process, gender-differentiate risks and vulnerabilities were screened thoroughly during stocktaking, analysis of gaps and needs, selection and prioritization of adaptation options. The following climate induced risks and vulnerabilities are considered that have a serious negative impact on the wellbeing of women, children, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

- Climate change impacts on women's nutritional status during pregnancy or menstruation.
- Child marriage being used by families as a strategy to cope with climate-change induced scarcity of food and loss if income.
- Gender-based violence as a means of reinforcing privileges and control over resources, especially in the aftermath of disasters, with intimate partner violence rates rising.
- Inter-generational transmission of vulnerabilities impairing adaptive capacity and livelihoods options due to climate change-induced heat stress.
- Engaging youth in labor due to disaster induced migration from coastal area.
- Impact on food security and nutrition of persons with disabilities.
- Significant stress and distress related to mental health issues for children, women, elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Lack of access to resources and facilities and less opportunities of participation in decision making of women and marginalized groups.



Gender Interventions in NAP

1. Gender Inclusive Climate Adaptation Interventions

Gender mainstreaming needs to be included in all stages of development activities such as planning, design, implementation, management and monitoring. The adaptation options identified in the NAP will promote gender equality and transformative change for inclusive sustainable development. These actions were devised in line with the needs of diverse groups and made equally accessible for everyone. It was ensured that gender issues were addressed in every step of the plan, not limited to the introductory segment.

Participation of women was ensured during different consultations, including workshops, that were arranged for identification of NAP interventions at national, district and grassroot levels. Empowering women and youth for climate adaptation, climate resilient public health care and WASH facilities was one of the key considerations during NAP formulation. NAP has identified major interventions towards gender-responsive and socially inclusive climate resilient development under eight priority areas. These are:

- Promote gender, elderly and persons with disabilities responsive and youth led disaster preparedness, emergency rescue and evacuation services.
- Increase the resilience of vulnerable poor communities with disabilities through diversified livelihood, effective insurance mechanism and climate resilience fund.
- Expand innovative climate-resilient, gender responsive WASH technologies and facilities for urban communities.
- Increase access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services in cities for reducing exposure to flooding and water borne diseases following extreme weather events.
- Improvement of surveillance and early warning system; monitoring of physical and mental health condition due to extreme weather events.
- Reform local government institutions for inclusion of community-based organizations, women, youth and persons with disabilities for implementation of locally led adaptation (LLA).
- Establishment of climate resilient health care facilities in urban areas.
- Awareness raising, training for skill development for enhanced adaptive capacity and improved diversified livelihoods at the community level.
- Establish Community-based rainwater harvesting, land & water resources management through indigenous techniques and conservation of wetlands, reservoirs and natural springs for drinking water supply in hard-to-reach and water stress areas.
- Development of e-commerce and engagement of gender, disability, and youth for e-commerce-based entrepreneurship and expand innovative climate-resilient gender-sensitive WASH technologies and facilities for local communities.



Eight Sectors of NAP

2. Gender Inclusive Policy Planning and Decision Making in relation to NAP

Recognizing the greater exposure of different vulnerable groups and greater inherent need for building their adaptive capacity, NAP intends to establish a conducive environment for climate resilient development through facilitating gender equitable and disability-responsive, and socially inclusive adaptation actions. The NAP acknowledges that adequate efforts need to be undertaken to reduce the existing gender gap in gaining access to policy and decision-making, planning, designing, programming and implementation of adaptation interventions. Catalyzing enabling conditions for smooth implementation, NAP has set a provision to develop the required policy, improved governance, and legislative framework through provisioning gender equality into the policy formulation process.

To support the smooth implementation of NAP it requires amendment of necessary policies, plans, strategies, guidelines, or acts such as a youth-led adaptation plan, an exclusive act, update of BCCSAP and its synergies with NAP, update of different sectoral plans where gender inclusion is prioritized. The revised climate change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), proposed Youth-Led Adaptation Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan for Persons with Disabilities and Chattogram Hill Tracts Climate Action Plan (CHT-CAP) will be aligned with the NAP's implementation and mainstreamed into subsequent sector policies and plans. The NAP implementation process aims to reduce the gender gap in accessing education, livelihoods, services, technology and financial resources. Climate-smart technologies will be introduced while considering gender aspects and women's particular needs and overall socioeconomic suitability. NAP has a provision to establish a dedicated Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) for vulnerable women through the Local Government Division. The participation of women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in decision-making to shape policies, planning and prioritizing of local adaptation needs will also be ensured through NAP implementation.



3. Gender Responsive Budget for NAP Implementation

NAP includes a gender-responsive budgeting system to ensure the effective allocation of public funds to address the needs of vulnerable groups (i.e., women, men, girls, boys, and people of non-binary genders) and to keep track of gender-specific expenditures, promote equal opportunities in the public services and mainstream gender equality into national, sectoral, and local level adaptation budgeting systems. For the implementation of 90 high priority and 23 moderate priority interventions, a total investment cost of 230 billion USD will be required during the 27-year implementation period until the 13th Five Year Planning cycle (2023-2050). Out of the estimated cost, BDT 3,491 billion is allocated for gender-specific interventions for NAP implementation. These costs are distributed across socially inclusive adaptation interventions under the six priority sectors.

Sectors	Cost (Billion BDT)
Water Resources	259.00
Disaster, Social Safety and Security	2155.00
Agriculture	11.00
Policy and Institution	122.55
Urban Areas	924.00
Capacity Development, Research and Innovations	19.70
Total	3,491.25

4. Capacity Development in the NAP for Gender Transformation

The NAP has put emphasis on transformative capacity development through training, workshops and awareness-raising programs for gender equality, the inclusion of persons with disabilities, elderly, youth focal points and representatives of different ministries, departments, government organizations, non-government organizations, civil society and private sector, women's organizations, and representatives of marginalized groups on inclusive adaptation interventions. Recognizing the disproportionate climate exposure of different vulnerable groups and greater inherent need to build their adaptive capacity, the NAP will ensure their equitable access to resources; build relevant skills and capacities for climate-resilient alternative livelihoods; promote and ease their engagement in agriculture, fisheries, livestock and SMEs programs.



Gender Equality

Construction of public or private infrastructure (shelters, water collection points, sanitation facilities, etc.) with safe design, adequate spaces and facilities, special attention to pregnant and lactating mothers, children, youth, persons with disabilities and elderly people need to be ensured for their easy accessibility. NAP has emphasized the inclusion of a climate change adaptation-related syllabus into elementary school curricula, training and other foundational courses and Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials that will build capacities for the required transformation, with a focus on sensitization on social inclusion.

5. Gender Inclusive Monitoring & Evaluation of NAP Implementation

Integrating gender considerations into M&E systems can help to ensure that gender differences in participation in adaptation actions and receiving benefits from investments are captured and that imbalances can be redressed. M&E systems, mentioned in NAP, will include sex-disaggregated data as well as track and report gender inequality in its implementation. The M&E indicators will be monitored for ensuring the participation of men and women in decision-making and access to benefits and result from adaptation actions.



Way Forward

The NAP identified integrated gender responsive priority interventions. Successful implementation of these interventions will lead to inclusive and equitable development in Bangladesh. However, coordinated and collaboratives efforts from all level of stakeholders including government and non-government organizations, development partners, Private Sectors, Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Women and Youth lead organization will be needed to achieve climate resilience that is truly inclusive and sustainable.

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