



GENDER AND CHILD INCLUSION IN POLICIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Save the Children



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Policies on Climate Change in
Southeast Asia

This report was produced by **Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA)** and **Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs)** with support from **Save The Children**, in December 2022 by:

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We are grateful to our colleagues at UNICEF Malaysia, and the extensive body of literature on gender-responsive and child-sensitive climate policies produced by UNICEF and UN Women in Southeast Asia.



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Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) represents 25 member organisations in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. CANSEA, in collaboration with its members, advocates for raising climate ambition at the national and regional levels. Find us online at www.cansea.net; Instagram: @canseacclimate; Twitter: @CANSEACclimate; Facebook: Climate Action Network Southeast



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Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) is Asia's largest coalition of NGOs addressing the climate crisis. With almost 300 member organisations from eight South Asian countries, CANSAs promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Find us online at www.cansouthasia.net; Twitter: @CANSouthAsia; Facebook: Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs); and LinkedIn: CANSouthAsia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Gender and Child Inclusion in
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in Southeast Asia

While Southeast Asia remains one of the most vulnerable regions to impacts of climate change, it also experienced the largest increase in emissions globally between 1990 and 2010. This trend has emerged alongside the region's socio-economic development and move towards industrialisation. As a result of structural barriers and cultural norms in Southeast Asia, women and children experience disproportionate impacts of climate change. These barriers hinder access for these vulnerable groups to rights, resources, and representation in climate action.

This report provides a situational analysis on climate action relating to women and children in Southeast Asia. Existing Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) climate policies, on a regional level, are generally gender-responsive, framed within a broader framework of sustainable development, with a positive trend towards gender-transformative action. While Nationally Determined Contributions amongst ASEAN countries have broadly adopted gender-responsive approaches, some countries have taken more significant steps in gender-transformative action, while others lag behind and are gender-blind.

While the integration of gender-budgeting provisions into national provisions can be slowly observed across ASEAN, child-budgeting provisions are mostly absent from climate resilience policies. Gender-responsive and child-sensitive budgeting for climate resilience in ASEAN is generally weak, and greater efforts need to be made to mainstream women and children into these provisions. Specific sectors pertinent to Southeast Asian climate action, namely Just Energy Transition (JET), agriculture, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and education, present differing points of entry for greater mainstreaming and action.

Governments, businesses, and civil society organisations are identified as duty bearers in the report's recommendations for children and female-headed households. These communities, who will undoubtedly face the brunt of climate change in the region, require actions from design to implementation and accountability by both public and private actors. This is imperative to ensure women and children the appropriate access to rights, resources, and representation, when experiencing and addressing the climate crisis in the region.

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ABBREVIATIONS



Gender and Child Inclusion in
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ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DRR	Disaster-risk reduction
JET	Just Energy Transition
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RE	Renewable energy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund



System-wide transformations are imperative to meet the global 1.5°C target of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. These transformations must remedy existing inequalities among vulnerable groups that are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. Intersectional lenses must be adopted when understanding factors of discrimination, considering gender, class, ethnicity, migration status, age, disability, and others to understand ways they may inform climate change related policies.

Women and children face discrimination on the grounds of their identity, reducing access to rights, resources, and representation. The United Nations (UN) has reported that 80% of individuals displaced as a result of climate change are women (LaMattina, 2022).

Their social and economic rights are compromised as a result of existing inequalities, exacerbating the impacts of climate change on these groups. According to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index, ASEAN countries face medium to very high severity in their vulnerability and exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses. Therefore, gender-transformative and child-sensitive policies are integral to strengthening access of these groups to rights, resources and representation in a climate-resilient society.

This report will provide a situational analysis on climate change policies, plans and implementation arrangements across ASEAN through a gender and child-sensitive lens.

Part 1 explores existing gender-responsive climate policies, through regional declarations, frameworks, and agreements, as well as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Part 2 identifies child and gender budgeting and provisions for climate resilience, focusing on the Just Energy Transition (JET), agriculture, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and the role of education.

Part 3 maps duty bearers and recommendations for providing services to children and female-headed households, looking at the role of governments, businesses, and civil society in the provision of climate-oriented services.

This report provides a literature review and policy analysis of key ASEAN statements, frameworks, and declarations, as well as NDCs, budgets, and other policy documents. The report does not present an exhaustive analysis of existing documents, and instead aims to map women and child rights within broader climate policy and action in Southeast Asia.

1 EXISTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICIES



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This section provides an analysis of climate change policies, plans and implementation arrangements through a gender lens and identifies knowledge gaps related to integrating gender concerns in climate change programs.

A. ASEAN Declarations, Frameworks and Agreements

UN Women has developed a framework for better understanding the mainstreaming of gender into policies, namely classifying them as gender-blind, gender-responsive, and gender-transformative (Han et al., 2022). Gender-blind policies fail to account for differentiated roles and needs of women and men, hence reinforcing existing inequalities and discrimination. Gender-responsive policies acknowledge and account for these differences, however fail to address structural barriers to equality. Gender-transformative approaches both account for the differences, tailor measures accordingly into policy, as well as address underlying structures and power dynamics through climate action.

Gender analysis of policy documents:

- **Gender-blind:** Provisions that **ignore gender differences** and **fail to acknowledge differing needs** of women, men, boys and girls. These provisions make no mention of gender and potentially perpetuate unequal gendered power dynamics.
- **Gender-responsive:** Provisions that **explicitly recognise the specific needs** of women and girls and **attempt to reduce gender inequalities** within communities. They fail to identify clear implementation strategies to address these inequalities.
- **Gender-transformative:** Provisions that **acknowledge structural and cultural barriers to gender equality**. These provisions provide clear implementation strategies to address the root causes of gender inequality in society.

A more detailed analysis of relevant documents and the extent to which these arrangements mainstream gender into their policy can be found in **Annex I on page 26**.

i. General ASEAN policy documents:

The general ASEAN policy documents primarily address regional social and economic growth in relation to the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are drawn from ministerial meetings, joint statements, frameworks and blueprints. Gender-blind policies did not mention gender, women, or differentiated roles and responsibilities in ASEAN sustainable development.

Gender-responsive policies, found in **Annex I on page 26**, addressed the necessity for a “gender-sensitive environment” for the enjoyment of basic rights. These policies further discuss the participation and representation of women in energy and disaster risk reduction (DRR) sectors. It failed to account for structural inequalities and barriers to meaningful integration of women into climate actions and governance.

Gender-transformative documents, most notably the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, underscore the importance of gender mainstreaming for gender-responsive climate action. It highlighted the role of women in disaster risk reduction and management and emphasised the importance of increasing resilience and participation of women in the sustainable energy sector.



Woman stands alone with a child in front of her house, its roof torn off by Cyclone Amphan.
Credit: Kaizer (020), UN Women

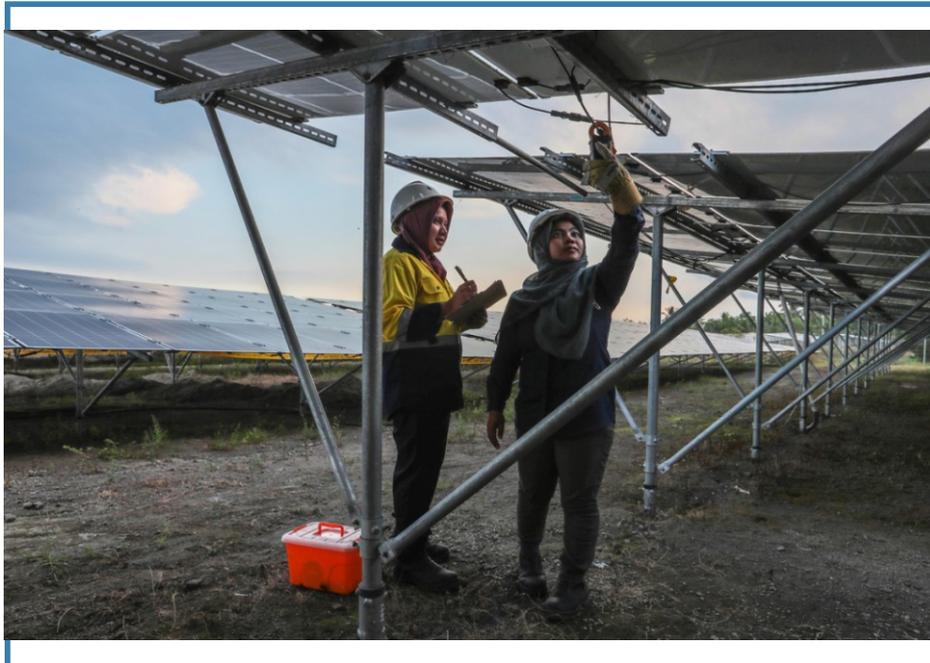
ii. Gender-specific policy documents:

ASEAN gender-specific policy documents range between gender-responsive and gender-transformative, recognising the disproportionate environmental and economic impacts of climate change on women and other marginalised groups. Promisingly, plans of action and declarations released between 2021 to 2022 have included strong gender-transformative analysis and recommendations, acknowledging the gendered dimensions of climate change and adopted an intersectional and integrated approach to mainstreaming women into action.

iii. Sector-specific policy documents:

As of 2018, ASEAN member states were responsible for 4% of global energy-related emissions (Handayani et al., 2022). While past documents failed to meaningfully address the role of women in the **energy** transition, the Chairman's Statement of The 17th East Asia Summit addressed the social and structural barriers to women, emphasised the linkage between economic empowerment for women and tackling gender inequality, as well as proposed actionable measures to alleviate the unequal burden shouldered by women in the private sphere. If ASEAN policy continues to be informed by this gender-transformative narrative, it has the potential to enact system-wide transformation and meaningfully integrate women into the energy transition.

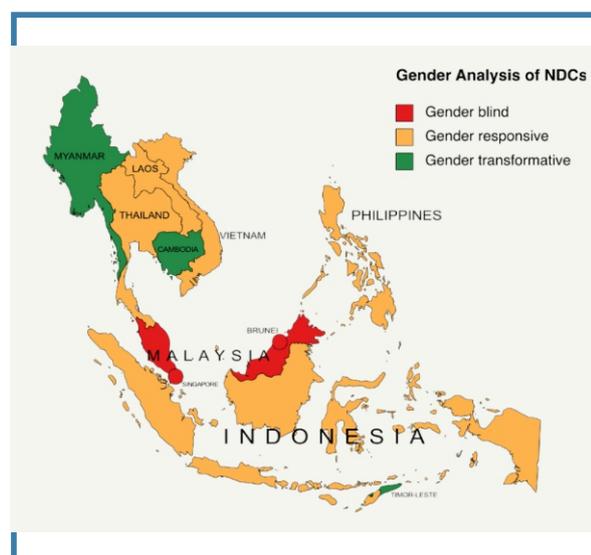
ASEAN policy on **disaster risk reduction (DRR)**, as early as 2015, has included gender-responsive elements, recognising the increased risk and vulnerability of women in disaster preparedness and management. ASEAN joint statements and guidelines from 2022 identify governance, investment and capacity-building as key areas to build resilience for women in DRR. They further highlight the potential use of quotas in disaster management committees as a method to address inequality.



Green finance provided investment in solar plants in Eastern Indonesia, empowering marginalised communities to engage in the just energy transition.
Credit: Asian Development Bank (2022)

ASEAN joint statements on **agriculture** have primarily taken place between ASEAN and China, Japan and The Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3). These joint statements are often gender-blind, with an emphasis on cross-sectoral coordination for climate resilience, and they fail to mention gender, women, or differentiated roles and responsibilities in agriculture and forestry. In contrast, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Adaptation to Drought 2021-2025 was gender-transformative, recognising the disproportionate burden of women in agriculture, the need for a gender focus in implementation of the plan, as well as the unique role and expertise women offer during drought periods.

B. Gender-responsive language in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



Map of Southeast Asia illustrates the status of gender in countries' NDCs.



Article 4 of the Paris Agreement mandates all Parties to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These NDCs feature each country's commitment to emissions reduction, as well as mitigation and adaptation measures to reach the agreement's long-term goals of limiting warming to well below 2°C and preferably to 1.5°C.

A report by UN Women on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN provided a comprehensive gender analysis and review of the NDCs of ASEAN countries. **Annex II on page 32** provides an overview of this analysis, alongside the version of the NDC submitted by the country.

ASEAN countries have **broadly adopted gender-responsive approaches** in their NDCs, identifying the gendered impacts of climate change on women and vulnerable groups in their countries. NDCs by Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore made little to no mention of gender or gender-responsive policies, and thus failed to account for the gendered impacts of climate change in their emission reduction goals. On the other hand, Cambodia and Timor Leste notably include gender-transformative approaches, meaningfully integrating women into participatory processes for climate action, in addition to outlining methods to address structural barriers to empowerment. Other ASEAN countries should look to these countries as examples of methods to increase access to rights, resources, and representation.

2 CHILD AND GENDER BUDGETING AND PROVISIONS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE



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Women and children experience the impacts of climate change differently as a result of compounded inequalities and discrimination. Thus, child-sensitive and gender-responsive budgeting and provisions are essential in building climate-resilient services for these groups.

Gender-responsive budgeting can be understood in light of three main goals: a) to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the relationship between gender issues and budgets and policies; b) to ensure governmental accountability for budget commitments; and c) to mainstream gender equality into government budgets and policies (Sharp, 2003). Child-sensitive budgeting similarly aims to integrate children into policy planning and budgetary frameworks (Jacob, 2020). These approaches fundamentally acknowledge the established disproportionate impacts on the basis of identity, and design budgets with this in mind.

Overview of National Budgeting:

Some countries like **Malaysia** and the **Philippines** have introduced gender-responsive provisions in their 2022 national budgets. Both countries highlighted the relationship between social protections and climate change. The Philippines took this a step further to integrate child-sensitive provisions into its budget, more specifically along the climate-food security nexus. The choice to integrate these approaches into national budgets is advantageous as it ensures these actions receive the necessary financial support for implementation, while underscoring the link between climate action and sustainable development.

Other countries, such as **Indonesia**, **Vietnam**, **Laos** and the **Philippines** have introduced gender-responsive legislation, or introduced provisions within the mandates of certain ministries. Laos' Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development sector devised a gender equality strategy for 2016-25, ensuring the relevant ministries utilise funds to mainstream gender (The Global Green Growth Institute, 2018). The Philippines' provisions have included a 5% minimum of total budgets directed towards gender and development purposes. Indonesia's Ministry of Finance, through collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment, passed a decree mandating gender budgeting at the national level of government, as well as attempts at the subnational level. This has been followed by annual regulations for gender-budgeting adoption, and mandated statements on its implementation.

Another approach taken by **Thailand** enshrines gender-budgeting provisions into its constitution. While this provides a legal framework for governmental accountability, it is insufficient for comprehensive enforcement and must be supplemented by other mechanisms, such as access to justice. A constructive approach would integrate these constitutional provisions while mainstreaming gender-responsive and child-sensitive approaches into national budgets.

A strong approach taken by **Cambodia** integrates youth into each mitigation activity outlined in its NDC, alongside the financial costs and benefits of the action.

Child-sensitive climate policies are significantly lacking in budgeting across Southeast Asian countries. While an increasing number of government provisions address the disproportionate impacts of climate and gender, most ministries tend to operate in isolation and therefore fail to address these differing impacts. For example, in an attempt to attain greater food security, the Ministry of Education in Thailand increased the budget for a school food programme by 5% in 2021. While this indirect consequence also addresses food insecurity that arises from climate change, it is probably a positive unintended effect. Additionally, a report by UNICEF found



that existing policy addresses the link between the impact of climate change on children and their education and environment (UNICEF Malaysia, 2021). Even so, gaps exist in addressing the impacts of climate change on their health.

Approaches to inclusive national budgeting:

- **National budgets:** The Philippines' national budget highlighted the relationship between social protections and climate change. It integrated child-sensitive provisions by underscoring the climate-food security nexus.
- **Legislation:** Indonesia passed a decree mandating gender-budgeting at the national level of government, as well as attempts at the subnational level
- **Constitutional provisions:** Thailand's Constitution mandates gender budgeting provisions.

A more comprehensive analysis of gender-responsive and child-sensitive budgeting for climate resilience can be found in Annex IV on page 35. It can be concluded that gender-responsive and child-sensitive budgeting for climate resilience in ASEAN is generally weak, and greater efforts need to be made to mainstream women and children into these provisions.

The following sections address specific sectors pertinent to Southeast Asia's socioeconomic stage of development. The report focuses on energy, agriculture, disaster-risk reduction and education due to their high impact potential, both in mobilising affected populations as well as enacting system-wide transformations necessary for mitigation and adaptation. The sections further highlight existing shortcomings in gender-responsive and child-sensitive provisions.

A. Just Energy Transition (with a focus on renewable energy)

Countries in Southeast Asia are experiencing significant increase in energy demands alongside their development. The Asian Development Bank found an 80% increase in aggregate energy demand in the last 20 years, with fossil fuels as the preferred energy source (Odonkor, 2020). The region is projected to continue on this trajectory, with a further 60% predicted increase in demand by 2040 alongside rapid urbanisation (IEA, 2019). This underscores the importance of a just energy transition, with a focus on renewable energy (RE), such that socio-economic development is not compromised, and that it is complemented by clean and sustainable energy sources.

The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 commits to a 23% renewable energy mix in its Total Primary Energy Supply (ASEAN Centre for Energy, 2015). Nevertheless, evidence has pointed towards the gendered dimensions of energy access, and thus the gender implications of RE projects on women (Han et al., 2022).

The energy sector, both in terms of workforce and governance, remains heavily male-dominated (Clancy et al., 2019). Disproportionate impacts on women and girls include land loss and displacement, inequitable access to opportunities in the energy sector, and lack of access to modern energy services.

This section identifies the different levels at which women and girls are impacted, and subsequently ways to include child and gender budgeting provisions in the just energy transition. This report notes that ASEAN and national policy documents on energy highlight the gendered dimensions within the energy transition, but fail to mention the disproportionate impacts on children. This section therefore primarily addresses the role of women within the JET as discussed in policy documents.



Old Filipino woman cooking inside her house.
Credit: Asian Development Bank (2009)

i. Households:

Gender inequalities are not limited to system or societal structures, and are visibly manifested at the individual and household levels. They can be seen in the gendered responsibilities of women and girls within the household, often responsible for food security and unpaid domestic caregiving functions. Specifically pertaining to the energy sector, these responsibilities extend to collecting firewood and crop wastes as biomass fuels, which often have harmful health and environmental effects (Ipsita et al., 2016). These activities further remove women and girls from other income-generating or educational opportunities.

Furthermore, existing patriarchal hierarchies prevent women from participating in decision-making opportunities concerning household finances. Thus, in male-headed households, even with available RE alternatives, men often hold the purchasing power to seek out these energy systems (Han et al., 2022). These investments are a lower priority to them as they do not experience the negative impacts of biofuel energy in the same way as women.

Hence, child and gender budgeting provisions at the household level must **target both attitudinal shifts addressing domestic gender roles and responsibilities**, through soft interventions informing behavioural change, **as well as increase access and investment to RE**, most notably for rural populations that rely more heavily on biomass fuels for household use.

ii. Communities and Businesses:

Southeast Asia's energy grids remain largely centralised and business-centred. Hence, they often overlook energy access in rural areas, which require decentralised RE systems tailored towards small-scale energy users. Businesses and state-controlled RE programmes should consider the roll-out of smaller-scale models, such as mini solar grids, that will increase access and affordability for local communities and households.



Additionally, as mentioned in the previous section, the lack of women's decision-making power at the household level prevents them from actively participating in the energy transition, as well as investing in alternative sources of energy. However, if small-scale RE programmes provide opportunities for entrepreneurship, allowing women to manage these initiatives would enhance social inclusion and gender equality while facilitating the energy transition in rural communities. This would additionally contribute to poverty alleviation, provide women with income-generating opportunities, and allow girls with time that can be used for education and other opportunities for development.

iii. Governance structures:

The energy sector, and specifically governance structures, remain male-dominated. The lack of inclusion of the lived experiences and expertise of women, especially rural women who hold household responsibilities for securing biofuel energy, remains a hindrance to a just energy transition. Furthermore, the energy transition will undoubtedly have impacts on certain communities, such as coal-producing areas, and must therefore account for ways to mitigate unintended consequences as a result of the energy transition.



Woman demonstrates water quality test in women-led training for climate governance at the city level.
Credit: WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities (2021)



Other groups face discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation etc. face varied impacts as a result of their marginalised, and often intersectional, identities. Facilitating the participation of women and other marginalised groups in the decision-making process can harness alternative knowledge systems and expertise, as well as meaningfully account for the impacts of these projects on local communities.

Indonesia's NDC highlights the role of children in community participation for development and implementation of climate action. An institutionalised model of Local Agenda 21 (LA21) with the aim to create local policies and programs that work towards achieving sustainable development, encompassing awareness raising, capacity building, community participation and the formation of partnerships, can be emulated as part of the governance structure.

Child and Gender Budgeting and Provisions in the Just Energy Transition:

- **Household:** Increased access and investment in renewable energy, and attitudinal shifts through soft interventions to influence behaviour change
- **Communities and Businesses:** Small-scale renewable energy programmes with opportunities for entrepreneurship
- **Governance structures:** Participation of women, children and other marginalised groups in the decision-making process

B. Agriculture for food and economic security

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found that 26.7% of working women in Southeast Asia are employed in agriculture, in comparison to a global OECD average of 3.5% (Goglio et al., 2021). This highlights the importance of agriculture for employment of women in Southeast Asia. This sector is incredibly vulnerable to climate change, threatened by sea level rise, increasing groundwater salinisation, increased rainfall and temperature increase. Hence, the dependence of women on agriculture for food and economic security is severely threatened by climate change, with a number of social structures further constraining their ability to adapt.

i. Land ownership and tenure structures:

The structure of land tenure in Southeast Asia remains largely patriarchal and patrilineal, restricting women's access to the land's use and ownership (Rao, 2011). Hence, with increasing land acquisition to increase national mitigation and adaptation capacities, women experience the brunt of this loss and displacement. Evidence has shown that men are more likely to find a job following this displacement (Porsani et al., 2018). On the other hand, women's limited skills and education minimise their opportunities for livelihood alternatives.

Existing budgets and provisions on agriculture in ASEAN and national policy documents identify the sector as an area of work, and therefore do not address the role of children. Existing literature highlights that for poorer families, girls are often the first to be removed from schooling to supplement household income with additional work. In many patriarchal societies, boys are often privileged over girls in times of food insecurity, thus leading to higher rates of malnutrition among girls (Pross et al., 2020).



Child and gender budgeting provisions must therefore take into account the potential unintended consequences of land use or seizure for mitigation and adaptation capacities. States and businesses should perform impact assessments of the land use on local communities, and offer capacity-building and technical assistance to ensure economic and food security is not compromised.

ii. Unique conservation and diversification knowledge:

Women possess unique conservation and diversification knowledge, by nature of their responsibilities for crop diversification and resilience (Han et al., 2022). Tapping into these knowledge systems will enhance larger-scale mitigation and adaptation in response to threats to food systems.

iii. Limited economic and adaptive capacity:

Despite women's dependence on agriculture for food and economic security, working women nevertheless shoulder a double burden of wage-earning and caregiving responsibilities. Within the agricultural sector, the gendered division of labour relegates women to menial tasks while men participate in capacity-building workshops and training. This division of labour in the public and private sphere significantly weakens women's adaptive capacity, and compromises their economic mobility.

Understanding migration as a viable adaptive alternative to land dispossession, men similarly possess greater mobility and are likelier to migrate or find alternative work following a disaster, while women have lesser opportunities to do so.

Child and gender budgeting provisions should account for programmes to increase participation of women in capacity-building training, as well as offer more equitable work opportunities within the agricultural sector. This can be ensured through provision of equal remuneration for equal work, as outlined by the International Labour Organization, as well as addressing gendered divisions and biases in school education.

Child and Gender Budgeting and Provisions in Agriculture:

- **Impact assessments** of the land use on local communities, and offer capacity-building and technical assistance.
- Tap into **local and indigenous conservation and diversification knowledge systems** to enhance larger-scale mitigation and adaptation.
- Programmes to **increase participation of women in capacity-building training**, enhancing economic and adaptive capacity.

C. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Research has demonstrated that women, through gendered norms and caregiving responsibilities, often place other family members' safety before their own during disasters, therefore putting themselves at greater risk during disasters (Cvetković et al., 2018). The Asian Development Bank found that women were among 60% of casualties in cyclone Nargis and typhoon Haiyan in 2008 and 2013 respectively (Chanchai and Levaque, 2018).



UN Women further found that following severe floods in Myanmar in 2015, 57% of women, who were involved in casual informal labour, experienced a loss of livelihood with their farmland resources destroyed. Disaster-risk reduction informed by child-sensitive and gender-transformative considerations is therefore essential, understanding the disproportionate impact faced by these groups during disasters.

i. Child-centred DRR:



Residents wade through waters, after flood in Sulawesi damages homes and leaves hundreds displaced.
Credit: Antara and Joion (2021), UN Women

Child-centred DRR has been identified as a long-term strategy to build community resilience and mitigate the vulnerability of children to disasters. Children are recognised as disproportionately affected by disasters due to their physical and psychological vulnerability, lack of economic independence from parents and caregivers, and limited representation (UNICEF, 2016).



Strategies to address these vulnerabilities have been spearheaded in Vietnam by international organisations, such as Save the Children and Plan International (Han et al., 2022). These strategies include increasing disaster preparedness, raising awareness on types of disasters and potential responses, research, institutional development and many more. The integration of vulnerable groups into disaster impact assessment, such as the Child Centered Risk Assessment highlighted by Myanmar's NDC, presents methods to ensure DRR is addressed in an intersectional manner. The integration of vulnerable groups into disaster impact assessment, such as the Child Centered Risk Assessment highlighted by Myanmar's NDC, presents methods to ensure DRR is addressed in an intersectional manner.

Child budgeting provisions for child-centred DRR should consider **mainstreaming DRR into formal and informal educational institutions**. Additionally, **disaggregated data by age** complemented with further research should be undertaken to better understand the impacts of climate-related disasters on children.

ii. Impact on health:

Women often experience a marked threat to health during disasters. Compromised access to clean water causes an increase in gynaecological diseases. Women and girls are also more likely to experience gender-based violence as a result of heightened stressors during disasters. A number of NDCs, namely by Cambodia and Laos, identify the disproportionate impact of climate change on children's health (**Annex II on page 32**).

As seen in **Annex IV on page 35**, budgeting provisions for climate resilience fail to address the impacts of health and necessary measures to be taken along the climate-health nexus.

Gender-budgeting provisions during disasters must **consider secondary consequences and impacts of disasters**, and incorporate access to crisis lines, increased household support, and technology for clean water access in order to mitigate the gendered impacts to health.

Child and Gender Budgeting and Provisions in disaster-risk reduction (DRR):

- **Mainstream DRR** into formal and informal education.
- Consider secondary consequences of disasters, and Incorporate **access to crisis lines**.
- Increase **household support and technology** to mitigate impacts to health

D. Role of education in addressing access barriers

Article 6 of the UNFCCC and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement identify Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) as a cornerstone of climate action in society. ACE aims to empower civil society engagement through education, public awareness, training, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation (UNFCCC, n.d.). From a health and wellbeing perspective, UNICEF highlights the direct relationship between physical and mental wellbeing, and the resilience of a community (Plush et al., 2022). Proactive adaptation measures will therefore account for the nexus between education, health, and gender, and recognise the importance of education in addressing the climate crisis.



i. Improving access to education:

From a gender perspective, access to education is crucial to address existing entry barriers in sectors which remain disproportionately difficult to access for women. Education, through increased access to schooling for girls as well as informal training for women, will create more equitable opportunities for women in the formal sector, thus furthering their access to resources and representation.

Children from poorer and more vulnerable communities are more likely to have to be removed from school to support their families, a phenomenon that is likely to rise with the increased frequency of climate-related events (Pross et al., 2020). Additionally, critical infrastructure for access to education, such as school buildings and road and transport systems, can further compromise this right. In addition to child-budgeting provisions being allocated to mitigation, they should be allocated to adaptive capacities..

Child vulnerability to environmental disasters:

- **335 mil** children are highly exposed to riverline flooding
- **240 mil** children are highly exposed to coastal flooding
- **400 mil** children globally live in areas that are highly exposed to tropical cyclones
- **2 bil** children live in areas where air pollution exceeds safe levels

Impact of investment* on climate risks of children

*Investment (as improving component score in the CCRI component score by 50%) in the following areas:

- Educational outcomes reduces climate risk for 275 mil children
- Access to health and nutrition services reduces climate risk for 460 mil children
- Access to social protection and reducing poverty reduces climate risk for 310 mil children
- Resilient water, sanitation and hygiene reduces climate risk for 415 mil children

While budgeting provisions, as seen in **Annex IV on page 35**, underlines a focus on food security and nutrition for children in light of the climate crisis, they fail to address structural disruptions that need to be accounted for. This can be addressed through understanding the frequency and likelihood of climate-related events, and **recognising measures that can be taken to prevent significant disruptions.**

ii. Mainstreaming ACE into education systems:

An analysis by UNICEF found multi-sectoral commitments in most NDCs for high-risk countries. Regrettably, it noted that 1 in 5 failed to address commitments in the education sector. ACE recognises formal education as a unique point of entry to promote awareness and agency amongst youth for climate action. National curriculum should reflect scientific developments and recognise traditional knowledge systems, with mandatory education on climate change, environmental management, and biodiversity conservation (Moore and Natson, 2021). Education ministries should **introduce climate dimensions in their child-budgeting provisions** to mainstream ACE into education systems.

Child and Gender Budgeting and Provisions in Education:

- Increase **access to schooling** for girls as well as informal training for women
- Introduce **climate dimensions** in their child-budgeting provisions



Students take to the street to advocate for climate education.
Credit: NuePhoto (2020), Getty Images

3 DUTY BEARERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS



Gender and Child Inclusion in Policies on Climate Change in Southeast Asia

The design, implementation and accountability mechanisms for gender-responsive and child-sensitive policies demands a multi-stakeholder approach. Potential duty bearers include public actors such as the government and relevant ministries, while non-state actors can range from businesses to civil society organisations. Coordinating the efforts of these duty bearers is essential to effective policy.

A. Governments

i. Data collection for monitoring and evaluation:

Disaggregated data is necessary to identify the specific and varied experiences of different identity groups. Beyond age-disaggregated data, which allows for an understanding of disparities among children, there is an urgent need in ASEAN countries for sex-disaggregated data to account for differences between men and women in relation to climate change. This can be done during the national census, and also more proactively when carrying out environmental risk assessments, carrying out preliminary research for policy, and post-disaster evaluations. Generating data that is sensitive to the nuanced and different experiences will allow for policy that is more tailored to the impacted groups.

ii. Cross-ministerial coordination and representation:

Women are significantly under-represented in government and decision-making positions. A 2018 OECD survey found that women only hold 20% of parliamentary positions, which in turn influence their lived experiences that are able to inform policy (OECD and Asian Development Bank, 2019). This lack of representation is not limited to women. The median age in Southeast Asia is approximately 30 years old, while most leaders in the region are twice this age (Hutt, 2022). The political landscape dominated by senior politicians signals a lack of youth representation, and questions the salience of issues and policies that address a large part of the population. Hence, advocacy for greater youth and female representation would have promising consequences for gender-responsive and child-sensitive policymaking.

Beyond increased representation, there should be a push for enhanced and coordinated cooperations between ministries in charge of climate-related sectors, such as energy, DRR and agriculture, and ministries with the portfolio for women's affairs. This will ensure policies do not operate in silos, and transcend sectors and reinforce a positive feedback loop.

Representation and coordination should be complemented by meaningful participation. Southeast Asian states should become signatories to UNICEF's Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, further supporting the role of children and youth on climate action. Additionally, UNICEF notes that only 23% of NDCs discuss the inclusion of young people in the NDC participatory process, while only 2% included children (UNICEF, 2021). Women and children should be included in the national NDC planning process and development to ensure their groups are sufficiently accounted for.

iii. Targeted financing:

Budgets and resource allocation remain a pivotal part of the means of implementation for climate policy. When designing budgets, sufficient resources should be allocated to identified target sectors to ensure financing



efficiently addresses the areas pertinent to each country. An example of this for child-sensitive policy budgeting can be through UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), which highlights areas of vulnerability by country. Thus, financing catered to identified vulnerabilities, informed by disaggregated data and existing literature, can ensure effective and efficient use of resources.

B. Businesses

i. Environmental impact assessments:

Businesses in Southeast Asia have taken an important step forward in climate-related reporting. A study by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) found that 70% of the region's top 100 largest listed companies published climate-related disclosures (Adigue et al., 2022). While sustainable development remains at the heart of this discourse for businesses, it is important to recognise the duty they hold to their consumers, as well as the indirect consequences of their activity on human and natural ecosystems.

Businesses should be required to disclose environmental and health effects on women and children across their supply chain, ensuring responsibility at all stages of production and development. Additionally, integrating plans of actions into business policy in the event of environmental emergencies, both for their own businesses as well as corresponding corporate social responsibility (CSR) would allow for a harmonisation of DRR policy between the public and private sector.

ii. Participatory, inclusive due diligence:

Following up from supply chain responsibilities, businesses should ensure their due diligence is participatory and inclusive of their diverse identity groups within the business, as well as communities impacted by their activity. They could carry out a social audit of their supply chain wherein each community group across gender and age informs back on the impact of business activities on their day-to-day life, health, education and livelihood options.

These include community recommendations on improving the way they conduct their business and engage with communities, thereby creating local solutions and opportunities. This should include integration of women and children into impact assessments, and may involve participation ranging from focus groups to decision-making.

C. Civil Society Organisations

i. Advocacy:

Civil society organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in pushing the needle forward for climate action, as well as to hold governments and businesses accountable to their responsibilities for gender-responsive and child-sensitive climate action. The example of child-centred DRR in Vietnam by Save The Children and Plan International illustrates the role of CSOs in forward rights-based and inclusive approaches in policymaking. Advocacy additionally aids in awareness raising, which can be useful for both individuals drafting policy, as well as the audiences of this policy to ensure they are able to understand and meaningfully advocate for their rights.



A protester holds a banner saying “Tree plantations are not real forests” during the Malaysian Climate Strike march in Kuala Lumpur.
Credit: Alexandra Radu (2019)

ii. Knowledge creation and sharing:

CSOs provide an opportunity for the generation and exchange of knowledge. Their ability to more flexibly navigate spaces of marginalised identity groups, such as women and children, allow them to act as the conduit between impacted groups and policymakers. Additionally, their ability to synthesise their findings allows them to serve as a streamlined and efficient resource for policymakers. CSOs can further facilitate participatory opportunities for vulnerable groups, through increasing access and capacity building, to ensure checks and balances are in place and that these individuals retain or gain a seat at the table.

While CSOs have knowledge and operate in the full spectrum society from engaging with frontline and vulnerable communities to negotiating with policy and decision makers, the level of consultation with CSOs in general, let alone those specialising in women and children's issues, was woefully inadequate to non-existent in the run-up to COP27 of the UNFCCC. This is based on personal communication with Climate Action Network (CAN) members in Southeast Asia.



Southeast Asian countries have already begun to experience the brunt of climate change, with vulnerable groups such as women and children expected to continue to face its disproportionate impacts.

This report has illustrated the lack of gender-transformative considerations in ASEAN-level policy, often falling within the realm of gender-responsive policy that fails to account for structural barriers to equality and inclusion. With regards to NDCs, ASEAN countries have generally adopted gender-responsive approaches but failed to meaningfully address children, with some countries performing better than others. Looking at child and gender budgeting and provisions for climate resilience, the just energy transition, agriculture, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and education were identified as target sectors for potential action.

Duty bearers and recommendations for children and female-headed households:

- **Governments**
 - Data collection for monitoring and evaluation
 - Cross-ministerial coordination and representation
 - Targeted financing
- **Businesses**
 - Environmental impact assessments
 - Participatory, inclusive due diligence
- **Civil society organisations**
 - Advocacy
 - Knowledge creation and sharing
 - Operating across spectrum of society

The entry of the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JET-P) into Southeast Asia is a new development for the region which has to be monitored carefully. The mobilisation of US\$20 billion of public and private finance by a cluster of industrialised countries, to help Indonesia bring forward the coal sector's peak emissions date by seven years to 2030, provides a vital opportunity for ensuring that transformative policies for women and children are included in the front and centre of its implementation. Announced during the G20 meeting in Bali on November 15, 2022, following negotiations at government level with no stakeholder involvement, and described as probably the single largest climate finance transaction or partnership ever, this JET-P must serve as a model for meaningful stakeholder involvement and consultation for Indonesia and the rest of Southeast Asia. Children and youth of mining families must be able to benefit from the JET-P in realising their rights to education, recreation and livelihoods.

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Annex I: Gender Analysis of ASEAN Policy Documents

i. General ASEAN Policy Documents

Gender-blind		
Document	Year	Analysis
Ministerial Interface Meeting 2022 on Sustainable Development Agenda Under the ASEAN Economic Community	November 2022	<p>Addresses sustainable development goals in light of national policies and international commitments, specifically in the energy, food, agriculture, forestry (FAF), and transportation sectors. Discusses the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>No mention of gender, women, or differentiated roles and responsibilities in ASEAN sustainable development.</p>
ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance	November 2021	<p>Frames discussion for collaboration between the public and private sector on systematic transformation within the region and development of the ASEAN taxonomy. Adopts a multi-sectoral, stacked approach for environmental protection and net-zero transition.</p> <p>No mention of gender, women or differentiated roles and responsibilities in sustainable finance.</p>

Gender-responsive		
Document	Year	Analysis
ASEAN Community Vision 2025	November 2015	<p>Establishes the ASEAN Community with a focus on enhancing collaboration, strengthening capacity and engagement, as well as ensuring protection of fundamental rights.</p> <p>Addresses the necessity for a “gender-sensitive environment” for the enjoyment of basic rights. Emphasises a community that “promotes and protects human rights of women, children” and other marginalised groups.</p> <p>To be gender transformative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight structural barriers and socio-cultural norms that disadvantage women. ● Commit to a more active integration of these groups, beyond recognition of their importance, into governance structures.



Document	Year	Analysis
ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to The 27th Session of The Conference of The Parties to The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-27)	November 2022	Highlights ongoing commitments within the climate regime, including participation in international treaties, frameworks, and dialogues. Considers the importance of gender equality and youth in tackling climate change. Promotes an intergenerational approach that is women and gender-responsive.
ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a Framework for Action	November 2017	Identifies complementary visions and goals between the two documents to produce a framework for sustainable development and regional action. Points to inclusivity of women in gender equality. Addresses the role of women in peace and security. References the UN 2030 Agenda on women's economic empowerment. Discusses the role of increasing access to electricity to reduce the burden of women in the private sphere, and support their social and economic development.

Gender-transformative

Document	Year	Analysis
ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy	October 2021	Acknowledges the gendered dimension and disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women. Recognises the need to address gender inequality and shared responsibilities between men and women to foster inclusivity and resilience.
Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2021-2025)	October 2020	Focuses on implementation of the Joint Declaration to promote cooperation in the dimensions of political-security, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation. Underscores the importance of gender mainstreaming for gender-responsive climate action. Highlights the role of women in disaster risk reduction and management. Emphasises the importance of increasing resilience and participation of women in the sustainable energy sector.



ii. Gender-specific policy documents

Gender-responsive		
Document	Year	Analysis
Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of the ASEAN Women and Children	May 2010	<p>Promotes regional cooperation for enhancement of development for women and children. The document does not explicitly address climate policies, however identifies it in relation to development targets.</p> <p>Recognises the vulnerability of women in natural and human-induced disasters. Emphasises the importance of mitigating social and economic impacts and resilience in relation to climate change.</p>

Gender-transformative		
Document	Year	Analysis
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security	November 2022	<p>Offers a clear implementation for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in its promotion of sustainable development in the region.</p> <p>Recognises the intersectionality of gender and other human rights crises, and necessity in adopting an intersectional approach to addressing gender inequality for sustainable development. Identifies climate change as a non-traditional security threat. Acknowledges gendered dimensions in disaster risk reduction within the context of climate change.</p>
Declaration on Building a More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future	November 2022	<p>Promotes gender equality and empowerment, underscoring the importance of economic empowerment for women as a driver for “inclusive economic growth, alleviating poverty, sustaining peace and fostering long-term resilience”.</p> <p>Recognises systemic and institutional barriers faced by women, preventing them from accessing social and economic opportunities. Identifies the predominance of women in the informal sector, and lack of protections as a result of this status. Emphasises the importance of integration of women into the economy, with actionable steps that promote financial instruments for women.</p>



Document	Year	Analysis
ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (2021–2025)	September 2021	<p>Highlights the importance of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in sustainable development.</p> <p>Identifies the disproportionate environmental and economic impact of climate change on women and girls. Prioritises gender equality within the broader ASEAN climate regime. Emphasis on placing gender inclusivity at the centre of planning, implementation, monitoring, and learning.</p>

iii. Sector-specific policy documents

Energy		
Document	Year	Analysis
Chairman's Statement of The 17th East Asia Summit on Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment, Strengthening Energy Cooperation for A Comprehensive Post-Covid-19 Recovery	November 2022	<p>Gender-transformative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), with plans to address this through promoting participation and capacity-building of girls and women in these fields. Emphasises the importance of women's economic empowerment through stronger formal institutional mechanisms. Highlights methods to aid in the transition of women from the informal to formal sector, and increase representation of women in decision-making positions. Underscores the importance of social protections and infrastructure to alleviate the unequal burden shouldered by women in the private sphere.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)		
Document	Year	Analysis
Guidelines for Operationalising the ASEAN Regional Framework of Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Disaster Management	June 2022	<p>Gender-transformative</p> <p>Emphasises importance of women in institutionalisation of disaster resilience and adaptation measures. Highlights representation of women through quotas in disaster management committees as a method to address inequality.</p>



Document	Year	Analysis
Ensuring Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction	June 2022	<p>Gender-responsive</p> <p>Builds on good practices from ASEAN countries to highlight gender-responsive disaster risk reduction. Explores strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in DRR, and enhancing disaster preparedness for recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.</p> <p>Recognises the necessity for disaggregated data in DRR and resilience. Integrates gender indicators and analysis into program monitoring and evaluations. Highlights gender mainstreaming into disaster management policies.</p>
Joint Statement on Strengthening Resilience to Disasters for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022	May 2022	<p>Gender-responsive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> References other ASEAN frameworks that address gender in DRR. Emphasises multi-stakeholder engagement, including women, to ensure disaster risk governance across sectors remain inclusive and involve marginalised groups. Fails to address disproportionate impact faced by women in DRR, as well as ways to address difficulties in integrating women into the DRR framework.
ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Disaster Management 2021-2025 (ARF-PGI)	October 2021	<p>Gender-transformative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the increased vulnerability of women to climate change impacts and disasters, with COVID-19 further compounding and deepening these existing inequalities. Emphasises meaningful involvement and participation of women in DRR and management.
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	2015	<p>Gender-transformative</p> <p>Addresses three dimensions of risks: exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, and hazard's characteristics. Aims to minimise existing risks, prevent further risks from being created, and increase resilience.¹</p> <p>Emphasises a broader and people-centred approach, engaging with women, for disaster risk reduction. Promotes integration of women into leadership positions. Stresses the importance of enhancing disaster preparedness for women for increased accessibility in response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches.</p>

¹ "What Is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?," United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, n.d., <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework#:~:text=The%20Sendai%20Framework%20focuses%20on,existing%20risk%20and%20increase%20resilience.>



Agriculture		
Document	Year	Analysis
Joint Press Statement of the Twenty Second Meeting of The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and The Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and The Republic of Korea	October 2022	Gender-blind Highlights resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems in relation to food security. No mention of gender, women, or differentiated roles and responsibilities in agriculture and forestry.
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Adaptation to Drought 2021-2025	October 2021	Gender-responsive Identifies the double burden placed on women as a result of climate-related extreme weather events such as droughts. Emphasises the application of a gender focus throughout the plan's implementation. Recognises the unique role and expertise women offer during drought periods. Presents actions and sub-actions that take into account the different vulnerabilities and role of women.
Joint Press Statement of the 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry	October 2020	Gender-blind Emphasis on cross-sectoral coordination for climate resilience. No mention of gender, women, or differentiated roles and responsibilities in agriculture and forestry.



Annex II: Gender and Child-Sensitive Analysis of ASEAN Countries' Nationally Determined Contributions

Source: UN Women State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN

Country	Type of NDC	Year submitted	Gender analysis
Brunei	First	2020	<p>Gender-blind Only mentions gender once. Children are recognised as vulnerable to the resulting health risks of climate change.</p>
Cambodia	Updated	2020	<p>Gender-transformative Recognises the disproportionate, gendered impacts of climate change, and identifies gender as a cross-cutting issue. Establishes links between gender and mitigation, as well as the importance of access to technology and information to address structural barriers to empowerment for women.</p> <p>Integrates gender-responsive policy into its adaptation plans, highlighted the use of disaggregated data to improve monitoring and evaluation, and emphasised gender-responsive budgeting.</p> <p>Highlights children and youth as critical actors in cross-sectoral climate action. Includes a section within the NDC on youth involvement, as well as a category on youth for each mitigation action outlined in its appendix.</p>
Indonesia	Updated	2021	<p>Gender-responsive Identifies gender equality as complementary to its long-term goal for low carbon and climate resilience. Recognises the intergenerational and gender-responsive approach to climate change.</p> <p>Highlights children as a vulnerable group that should be included in mechanisms of community participation for development and implementation of climate policy.</p>
Laos	First	2021	<p>Gender-responsive Illustrates integration of gender into national strategies. Indicated steps to be taken to revise existing policy to include gender-responsive action.</p> <p>Identifies children's health as compromised by the impacts of climate change.</p>



Country	Type of NDC	Year submitted	Gender analysis
Malaysia	Updated	2021	Gender-blind Limited to no references, with brief mention on increasing inclusivity of vulnerable groups in DRR. No mention of children.
Myanmar	First	2021	Gender-transformative One out of nine guiding principles in its national Climate Change Policy focuses on women's empowerment. Emphasises inclusion of gender considerations in recovery and adaptation processes. Draws attention to capacity-building for resilience and equal participation in climate action. Identifies access to education as impacted by climate change, increasing child vulnerability. Highlights disproportionate impact of disasters on children and other vulnerable groups. Outlines a Child Centered Risk Assessment that maps child vulnerability to natural and human-caused disasters.
Philippines	First	2021	Gender-responsive Recognises the importance of meaningful participation of women, children, and other marginalised groups in climate action. However, fails to effectively identify ways to integrate these groups into policy, as well as highlight the disproportionate impacts of climate change faced by these groups.
Singapore	Updated	2020	Gender blind Limited references to gender or gender-responsive policies. No mention of children.
Thailand	Updated	2020	Gender-responsive Includes gender-responsive as a principle, with mentions of “gender-sensitive” assessments. However, it fails to mention specific methods or policies that display gender-responsive policy. No mention of children.
Vietnam	Updated	2022	Gender-responsive Establishes a relationship between achievement of SDGs and risk reduction, specifically highlighting women and children as a vulnerable group. Recognises education, finance and information as areas where women lack access. Further highlights the dependence of women on agricultural work for economic independence.



Country	Type of NDC	Year submitted	Gender analysis
Vietnam			<p>Recognises the gendered impact of disasters on women, and their limited representation in decision-making positions.</p> <p>Promotes participation of youth in adaptation and emission reduction activities.</p>
Timor Leste	Updated	2022	<p>Gender-transformative Recognises gender inequality as a persistent challenge. Identified specific sectors and policies for gender-mainstreaming. Established an unconditional commitment to gender-responsive governance. Highlighted integration of women and vulnerable groups into NDC preparation.</p> <p>No mention of children.</p>

Annex III: Child Sensitivity Index in ASEAN Countries

Source: UNICEF The climate crisis is a child rights crisis

Country	Climate and Environmental Factors	Child Vulnerability	Children's Climate Risk Index
Brunei	2.9	1.8	2.4
Cambodia	7.2	5.6	6.5
Indonesia	8.1	4.2	6.5
Laos	7.5	5.8	6.7
Malaysia	7.2	2.8	5.4
Myanmar	8.3	5.4	7.1
Philippines	8.9	4.0	7.1
Singapore	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thailand	8.4	2.3	6.2
Vietnam	8.8	3.0	6.8
Timor Leste	N/A	N/A	N/A



Annex IV: Gender-responsive and child-sensitive budgeting for climate resilience

	Budgeting for Climate Resilience	
Country	Gender-responsive	Child-sensitive
Brunei	The Special Committee on Family Institutions and Women ensures women's issues are integrated into national policies and budgetary requirements. ² However, no commitments in relation to the climate can be found.	N/A
Cambodia	N/A	N/A
Indonesia	The Ministry of Finance mandates gender-budgeting at the central government and sub-national level. Annual regulations are issued, with monitoring and evaluation frameworks in place for accountability.	The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection takes part in Climate Budget Tagging, which helps track expenditure on climate-related activities.
Laos	The Lao Women's Union (LWU) and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) have developed policies that integrate women into planning, budgeting and implementation across ministries. ³	N/A
Malaysia	The 2022 National Budget highlighted the role of community empowerment, specifically vulnerable groups, in biodiversity conservation. It also placed an emphasis on income generation and job creation for vulnerable groups. ⁴	N/A
Myanmar	No commitment to gender and child budgeting in climate policy. However, 0.41% of the national budget was directed towards its Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for 2019/20. ⁵	
Philippines	Under the social protection umbrella of its 2022 National Budget, gender and development is identified as a cross-cutting issue receiving funds. It additionally	The 2022 National Budget underscores good nutrition, specifically for at-risk children and mothers. It additionally makes a reference to budgeting and taking action for future

² Brunei Darussalam Country Report, 2014, Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20, Bangkok, Thailand.

³ Youn, Hyunjoo. 2018. Background Paper for Developing Gender Responsive National Strategy for Green Growth in Lao PDR. Consultant's Report, Vientiane: GGGI.

⁴ "Budget 2022," Ministry of Finance Malaysia § (2021), <https://budget.mof.gov.my/pdf/2022/ucapan/bs22.pdf>.

⁵ U Sar Mwe et al., "Myanmar 2019/20 Social Welfare Budget Brief" (UNICEF Myanmar, 2019), [https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media/6451/file/2018-19_Myanmar_Social_Welfare_Budget_Brief%20\(English%20Version\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media/6451/file/2018-19_Myanmar_Social_Welfare_Budget_Brief%20(English%20Version).pdf).



Country	Gender-responsive	Child-sensitive
Philippines	<p>emphasises the need to strengthen cooperation across sectors for gender-responsive facilities.</p> <p>As a part of its Gender and Development (GAD) budget since 1995, the country has earmarked 5% of total departmental expenditure for gender and development purposes.</p>	<p>generations, with a need to improve the nutrition of Filipinos in order to achieve food security within its sustainability agenda.</p>
Singapore	<p>No commitment to gender responsive budgeting in climate policy.</p>	<p>Recognition of impact of carbon emissions on future generations, and therefore importance of decarbonisation.⁶</p>
Thailand	<p>Section 71 of the Thai Constitution states that “[i]n allocating the budget, the State shall take into account the different necessities and needs with respect to genders, ages and conditions of persons to ensure fairness”. However, there is no commitment to gender responsive budgeting in climate policy.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education increased the budget for its school food programme by 5% in 2021 to secure greater food security. Despite the indirect provisions in response to climate change, this is possibly an unintended consequence of the policy.</p>
Vietnam	<p>Vietnam's 2015 State Budget Law places an emphasis on gender equality, hunger elimination and poverty reduction. It further requires budget allocations to account for gender equality.</p> <p>Its National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (2008) and the National Strategy on Climate Change (2011) both integrate gender equality provisions into their strategies and guiding principles.⁷</p>	<p>N/A</p>
Timor Leste	<p>Timor Leste's Roadmap for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs includes a commitment to gender-sensitive budgeting, as well as a gender monitoring system under the Office of the Prime Minister.⁸</p>	<p>Use of a “Child Marker” to identify the needs of children and subsequently allocate sufficient proportions of the budget at the national and local levels.⁹</p>

⁶ “Singapore Budget Statement 2022,” Singapore Budget Statement 2022 § (2021), https://www.mof.gov.sg/docs/librariesprovider3/budget2022/download/pdf/fy2022_budget_statement.pdf.

⁷ Nguyen Sy Linh, “The State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Viet Nam” (ISPONRE, November 2021), <https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/THESTA~1.PDF>.

⁸ “Timor Leste's Roadmap for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs” (Asian Development Bank, n.d.), <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/51063-001-sd-02.pdf>.

⁹ “Timor-Leste Adopts a Child Marker to Strengthen Equity in State Planning and Budgeting,” UNICEF, October 27, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/press-releases/timor-leste-adopts-child-marker-strengthen-equity-state-planning-and-budgeting>.



Gender and Child Inclusion in Policies on Climate Change in Southeast Asia

