Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policies in Asia Pacific

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This executive summary synthesizes the critical findings, insights, and actionable recommendations derived from a comprehensive Regional Brief on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) within climate change and renewable energy policies across the Asia Pacific. The Brief analyzes global policy frameworks, delves into intricate sectoral dynamics, presents detailed country profiles for India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Fiji, and Thailand, and also brings in the indispensable perspectives of fisher folks and Indigenous Peoples. It systematically identifies persistent discrepancies between policy commitments and their practical implementation, highlights successful women-led initiatives, and offers strategic guidance to foster gender-responsive, inclusive, and sustainable climate and energy transitions.

1 Context and Purpose

The Asia Pacific region stands disproportionately vulnerable to the escalating impacts of climate change, hosting nearly half of the world's susceptible population and confronting intensifying risks from extreme weather events, relentless sea-level rise, and pervasive resource degradation. Within this precarious landscape, women and marginalized groups bear an exacerbated burden of these impacts, largely attributable to systemic inequalities, constrained access to vital resources, and entrenched social norms that curtail their agency. Recognizing these profound disparities, global frameworks—including the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (with particular emphasis on SDG 5 for gender equality and SDG 7 for clean energy), and the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender—unanimously advocate for the comprehensive integration of GESI across all climate and energy policies.

This Brief undertakes a meticulous examination of the extent to which Asia Pacific nations have effectively translated these international commitments into tangible domestic practices. It rigorously reviews national and subnational policy frameworks, critically evaluates development and sectoral strategies spanning agriculture, water, disaster management, renewable energy, technology and finance, and presents in-depth country case studies. By meticulously spotlighting both pervasive barriers and exemplary best practices, the overarching objective of this Brief is to furnish clear, actionable guidance to policymakers, development partners, and civil society organizations, steering them towards meaningful, gender-transformative action.

2 Regional Trends in Policy and Practice

Across the diverse tapestry of the Asia Pacific, there has been a discernible and marked increase in references to GESI within climate and energy policies since 2015. A majority of countries now formally acknowledge women's inherent vulnerability and underscore the paramount importance of their active participation. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) frequently feature gender as a cross-cutting theme, signalling a growing awareness at the policy level. However, the critical transition from mere rhetorical commitment to robust, actionable implementation remains significantly constrained by four fundamental challenges:

Lack of Actionable Targets

A pervasive deficiency exists in the formulation of specific, measurable gender-related objectives, quantitative indicators, or clear timelines for data collection and reporting within policy frameworks. This absence renders effective monitoring and evaluation exceedingly difficult.

Insufficient Resources

Dedicated gender budgets and specific financing lines for women's empowerment initiatives within climate action remain exceptionally rare. Consequently, the vast majority of such initiatives are heavily reliant on sporadic, ad hoc donor support, undermining their sustainability and scalability.

Weak Institutional Capacity

Governmental agencies and utilities frequently exhibit a critical dearth of gender expertise, comprehensive guidelines, and robust accountability mechanisms necessary to effectively mainstream GESI across all phases of planning, execution, and monitoring.

Women & Marginalized Communities, Economic Empowerment

Poor status of women in climate change and renewable energy policies, programmes and practices is only a reflection of social norms, entrenched patriarchy and poor social and economic status in the society. One cannot be achieved without the other. Therefore, governments must work together removing common legal, social and economic barriers, along with improving their participation and leadership in climate action and renewable energy.

These persistent gaps perpetuate predominantly top-down, vulnerability-focused approaches that regrettably fail to fully harness women's critical and multifaceted roles as innovators, astute managers, and influential leaders in the ongoing processes of adaptation and renewable energy transitions.

3 Sectoral Analysis

3.1 Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture constitutes the fundamental economic backbone for countless rural households across the Asia Pacific, where women comprise a substantial 40-65 percent of the farm workforce. Climate variability—manifesting as severe droughts, devastating floods, and widespread salinization—exacerbates women's already arduous workloads, profoundly deepens gendered disparities in crucial areas such as land ownership, and severely limits their access to essential credit, vital inputs, and extension services. Key findings within this sector include:

Weak Women's Land Rights

A stark reality reveals that only a meager 13–35 percent of women in major farming countries possess titled land, severely undermining their economic security and agency.

Male-Centric Extension Services

Agricultural extension services are predominantly designed for and delivered to men, often through digitally mediated platforms, thereby systematically excluding women who frequently face lower literacy rates or significant mobility constraints.

Inappropriate Technology Choices

The design and deployment of agricultural technologies often disregard women's specific physical needs and ergonomic considerations, rendering mechanization less accessible and beneficial for them.Also, most energy interventions and access only provide connectivity and hardly foster any productive use or economic activity.

Despite these challenges, successful models—such as women-led kitchen gardens in India, resilient community seed banks in Bangladesh, and robust federated women farmers' networks in the Philippines—powerfully demonstrate that gender-sensitive agricultural support can significantly boost productivity, enhance resilience, and improve household incomes.

3.2 Water and Sanitation

Women unequivocally serve as the primary water managers at the household level. Rising global temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall patterns intensify the already burdensome tasks of water collection, costing South Asian economies an estimated $1.4 billion annually and exacerbating severe social strains, as evidenced by phenomena such as "water wives" in Maharashtra. National water policies frequently subsume women's critical concerns under generic "household" needs, thereby failing to:

Involve Women in Water Governance

Women are largely excluded from meaningful participation in water governance and crucial decision-making processes.

Integrate Gender Data

There is a notable absence of gender-disaggregated data integration into water planning and investment strategies.

Prioritize Decentralized Systems

Policies often fail to prioritize decentralized, community-managed water systems that women are uniquely positioned to lead and sustain.

Programs such as India's Jal Jeevan Mission, which mandates a 30 percent women's participation in water committees, and Rajasthan's community-built check dams vividly illustrate how gender-inclusive water governance can lead to substantial improvements in health outcomes, educational attainment, and overall livelihoods.

3.3 Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters are escalating in both frequency and intensity, and alarmingly, women's mortality rates in climate disasters can be up to 14 times higher than men's. While legal frameworks, such as India's Disaster Management Act (2005), Fiji's Climate Change Act (2021) and Thailand's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 20027, nominally reference gender sensitivity, actual practices often remain superficial and inadequate:

Gendered Mobility Constraints Overlooked

Early warning and response systems frequently fail to account for gendered mobility constraints, placing women at greater risk.

Lack of Sex-Disaggregated Data

Relief and rehabilitation planning rarely involves the collection of sex-disaggregated loss data, leading to less effective and equitable recovery efforts.

Limited Women's Participation

Women's participation in disaster-management committees is severely limited by prevailing cultural norms and societal expectations.

However, some of the best practices from India viz. Odisha's cyclone shelters, Gujarat's innovative heat-wave management strategies, and Kerala's successful women-led disaster training initiatives unequivocally demonstrate that when women's leadership is genuinely prioritized—and crucially, accompanied by dedicated gender budgeting—Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) outcomes improve markedly.

3.4 Energy Access and Renewable Energy

Despite the impressive statistic that 90 percent of Asia Pacific households now have access to electricity, a staggering 1.1 billion people still lack access to clean cooking fuels, a deficiency that disproportionately impacts women's health. Energy policies—such as India's Integrated Energy Policy (2007) and the Philippines' Energy Plan (2020–2040)—tend to treat gender as a mere afterthought, primarily focusing on infrastructure targets rather than comprehensively addressing gendered energy needs. Key insights within this critical sector include:

Underrepresentation of Women

Women constitute a mere 11–22 percent of domestic renewable energy sector workers, a figure significantly lower than the global average of 32 percent. It also manifests low representation of women in decision making in general and decision making in energy in particular.

Low LPG Uptake

Women-headed households exhibit the lowest uptake of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) despite the availability of subsidies, indicating underlying access barriers.

Minimal Clean Cooking Finance

A paltry 0.01 percent of global climate finance is allocated to clean cooking initiatives, highlighting a severe funding disparity.

Conversely, programs such as Nepal's female-owned micro-grids, India's Saubhagya specifically targeting women led households, and the Barefoot College's global network of solar entrepreneurs powerfully demonstrate that gender-transformative energy solutions can generate profound co-benefits spanning health, economic empowerment, and overall social upliftment.

3.5 Climate Finance and Technology

Global climate finance flows have historically exhibited a profound lack of prioritization for gender, with less than 0.01 percent explicitly addressing both climate action and women's empowerment. Within the Asia Pacific context:

Limited ODA Overlap

Only a meager 2–5 percent of bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) for gender equality overlaps with explicit climate objectives.

Access Barriers for Women-Led SMEs

Women-led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face significant access barriers, including a critical lack of collateral, substantial financial literacy gaps, and pervasive digital exclusion.

High Vulnerability Overlapping with High Sovereign Debt

Most of the highly vulnerable countries are also highly indebted, which leaves governments with little resources for climate action and more to achieve gender equality and social inclusion. This is one of the reasons holding back Fiji which has excellent commitment towards inclusion. High sovereign debt complicates the scaling of green bonds and parametric insurance mechanisms designed to enhance women's resilience.

Nevertheless, innovations such as Fiji's Rural Electrification Fund, which incorporates dedicated women's technical training, India's GroW network aimed at unlocking women's leadership in green finance, and Bangladesh's gender-mandated budgeting within climate funds offer promising pathways to effectively mainstream gender considerations into climate finance and the broader adoption of climate-smart technologies.

4 Country Profiles

4.1 Bangladesh: Institutional Leadership, Yet Gaps in Practice

Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP, 2009) and its updated National Adaptation Plan (2023–2050) formally recognize gender, yet they critically lack operational mechanisms for effective implementation. A mere 10 percent of energy sector jobs are held by women, and coastal salinity poses a severe threat to health in regions like Khulna. While the Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (CCGAP, 2024) provides a strategic roadmap replete with measurable indicators, persistent capacity constraints and significant resource gaps at local levels continue to impede its effective implementation. However, successful models like Grameen Shakti's women-trained technicians and accessible rainwater harvesting initiatives in saline zones powerfully highlight the transformative potential of gendered adaptation strategies.

4.2 Fiji and the Pacific: Small Islands, Big Innovations

Fiji has demonstrated commendable leadership in mainstreaming GESI across its climate finance and disaster resilience policies. Its Climate Change Act (2021) notably embeds constitutional non-discrimination principles and mandates gender-responsive policies. Its updated NDC ambitiously targets 100 percent renewable electricity and a 30 percent emissions reduction by 2030. Fiji has pioneered innovative financial instruments such as green and blue bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, and parametric insurance. However, only 25 percent of its assessed adaptation needs are currently financed. Women hold a mere 8–27 percent of energy sector jobs, and a significant 47 percent of households lack access to clean cooking fuels. Nevertheless, initiatives like the Solar Mamas barefoot training program, UNDP's Rural Electrification Fund with dedicated women technicians, and Pacific Women in Power's persistent push for gender data demonstrate a burgeoning ecosystem committed to advancing women's leadership and energy access.

4.3 India: A Gap between Grandstanding and Ground Realities

India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC, 2008) regrettably operationalizes its gender commitments only minimally, with a notable exception in agriculture's National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture. Subsequent State-level Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) largely replicate vulnerability-centric frameworks and seldom elevate women's roles as proactive agents of change. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) conspicuously lack gender-specific targets, and renewable energy schemes like PM-KUSUM fail to adequately integrate women's techno-managerial insights. Despite exemplary grassroots work—such as Kerala's Kudumbashree solar collectives and the Mahila Housing Trust's pioneering heat resilience initiatives in Gujarat—comprehensive reforms in gender budgeting, robust data systems, and gender-sensitive technology design remain an urgent imperative.

4.4 The Philippines: Progress and Gaps in GESI Mainstreaming

The Philippines boasts a robust legal framework—including the Magna Carta of Women (2009), the Climate Change Act (2009), and the People's Survival Fund Act (2012)—which sets high standards for GESI integration. However, fragmentation across various government agencies regrettably undermines cohesive GESI implementation. Women in off-grid areas, despite actively managing household energy use, are systematically excluded from the Department of Energy's (DOE) gender-blind energy planning processes. Conversely, community solar micro-grid pilots in Eastern Samar and Palawan, which actively train women as technicians and cooperative leaders, vividly illustrate transformative impacts on livelihoods and disaster preparedness. While the Updated NDC (2021) advocates for inclusive action, it critically lacks gender-disaggregated benchmarks. Institutionalizing lessons learned from these successful community projects into national energy and climate strategies is of paramount importance.

4.5 Thailand: Empowering Women in Fisheries and Marine Resource Governance

Thailand's Gender Equality Act (2015), Women's Development Strategy (2023–2037), and Climate Change Master Plan (2015–2050) provide foundational policy anchors. Yet, small-scale fishers—a demographic where 90 percent of women are engaged in crucial post-harvest roles—

remain marginalized in the Fisheries Act (2015) and coastal adaptation plans. Pervasive data gaps and technocratic Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks severely limit women's meaningful participation. However, community mangrove restoration efforts led by women's networks in Trat and Phang Nga, coupled with pilot solar microgrid and bioenergy projects specifically for fishers, reveal significant untapped potential. Revising sectoral policies to institutionalize Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), gender quotas, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms in fisheries, water, and energy sectors can significantly advance gender-just resilience.

The table below summarizes key demographic, economic and climate-risk metrics for each country. Population & GDP figures are 2022 estimates (World Bank[1]). Climate-Risk Index rankings and loss data draw on Germanwatch's CRI (2025 edition[2]) and national reports[3–6].

Country	Population (2022)	GDP (USD 2022)	GDP per capita (USD 2022)	CRI Rank (1993–2022)	Economic Losses (last 10 yrs)	Lives Lost (last 10 yrs)
India	1,426,000,000	3.469 Trillion	2,430	6	180 Billion[3]	80,000[3]
Fiji	920,000	5.5 Billion	5,980	-	-	-
Bangladesh	169,000,000	416 Billion	2,460	-	3.72 Billion[4]	11,450[4]
Philippines	113,000,000	394 Billion	3,480	10	34 Billion[5]	> 7,000[5]
Thailand	70,000,000	543 Billion	7,750	30	-	-

Note: "–" indicates data not in the top 10 CRI rankings or unavailable in the cited sources.

5 Indigenous Peoples and Just Transition

Indigenous Peoples across Asia are confronting renewed and intensified pressures on their traditional lands and resources, largely stemming from the expansion of large-scale renewable energy projects and critical-mineral mining operations. Partnerships such as the Right Energy Partnership (REP) and the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme have commendably supported Indigenous-led micro-hydro, solar, and biomass energy solutions in diverse contexts including Nepal, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste. Successful outcomes encompass the provision of community water pumps, household electrification, and solar-powered processing units. However, sustaining these vital gains necessitates:

Institutional Recognition

Formal institutional recognition of Indigenous clean-energy priorities is crucial.

Continued Capacity Building

Sustained capacity building initiatives for technology maintenance are essential.

Access to Finance

Ensuring access to finance that extends beyond short-term project cycles is paramount.

Integration of FPIC

The systematic integration of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles into national electrification strategies is non-negotiable.

1. World Bank (2024), "World Development Indicators."
2. Germanwatch (2025), Climate Risk Index 2025 – long-term ranking (1993–2022).
3. India data (1993–2022): economic losses USD 180 billion; fatalities ~ 80000. From https://www.studyiq.com/articles/climate-risk-index-cri/
4. Bangladesh data (2000–2019 proxy for last decade): losses USD 3.72 billion; fatalities 11450. From https://www.tbsnews.net/environment/climate-change/bangladesh-remains-7th-most-vulnerable-climate-change-191044
5. Philippines data (1993–2022): losses USD 34 billion; fatalities from Typhoon Haiyan alone ~ 7000. From https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/936043/ph-is-10th-most-affected-country-by-extreme-weather-events-in-last-30-years-climate-risk-index-2025/story/
6. Thailand CRI ranking from Department of Climate Change & Environment (2025). From https://www.nationthailand.com/sustaination/40046427

The seminal 2024 Indigenous Peoples' Just Transition Declaration and Roadmap powerfully advocate for centering Indigenous leadership in both global and national energy dialogues to effectively achieve SDG 7 and advance climate justice.

6 Cross-cutting Barriers

Across all the countries meticulously reviewed in this Brief, several persistent and systemic barriers consistently impede the effective integration and operationalization of GESI principles:

6.1 Data Deficit

A critical and pervasive absence of sex-, age-, disability-, and ethnicity-disaggregated data fundamentally undermines evidence-based GESI integration. Without granular data, it is exceedingly difficult to identify specific vulnerabilities, design targeted interventions, and accurately measure the differential impacts of climate and energy policies on diverse social groups. This data void perpetuates a cycle of uninformed policymaking and limits accountability.

6.2 Resource Scarcity

Dedicated gender budgets within climate and energy agencies remain woefully minimal. The vast majority of GESI initiatives are heavily dependent on short-term, often precarious, external funding. This reliance on donor support compromises the sustainability, scalability, and long-term institutionalization of gender-responsive climate actions. The lack of consistent domestic financial commitment signals a low prioritization of GESI within national development agendas.

6.3 Institutional Weaknesses

A significant absence of gender expertise, comprehensive training programs, clear implementation guidelines, and robust accountability mechanisms pervades key ministries, utilities, and disaster management agencies. This institutional weakness results in a superficial understanding of GESI principles, leading to policies that are often gender-blind or, at best, gender-aware but not truly gender-transformative. Without internal capacity, the mainstreaming of GESI becomes an ad hoc, rather than systemic, endeavour.

6.4 Technocratic Approach and Technological Exclusion

The design and delivery of agricultural, water, energy programmes and early warning systems frequently fail to adequately consider women's specific physiological needs, cultural contexts, and varying levels of literacy. This oversight leads to technologies that are inaccessible, impractical, or even detrimental for women, thereby exacerbating existing inequalities rather than alleviating them. Bridging this technological exclusion requires a participatory design approach that centers the needs and capabilities of diverse users.

6.5 Technocratic Approach and Technological Exclusion

Microfinance, unsecured, concessional loans, and tailored insurance products specifically designed for women's adaptation and renewable-energy enterprises remain critically scarce. This significant financing gap limits women's entrepreneurial potential, hinders their ability to invest in climate-resilient livelihoods, and restricts their access to innovative green technologies. Traditional financial systems often impose collateral requirements and literacy barriers that disproportionately exclude women.

6.6 Cultural Norms

Deeply entrenched patriarchal and social norms continue to significantly constrain women's mobility, their active participation in public decision-making fora, and their ability to assume leadership roles and control over income generating activities. These cultural barriers manifest in various forms, from restrictions on women's movement outside the home to societal expectations that limit their engagement in traditionally male-dominated sectors like energy or infrastructure. Addressing these norms requires sustained social and behavioural change interventions alongside policy reforms.

7 Best Practices

Despite the formidable systemic challenges, numerous grassroots initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships across the Asia Pacific region offer compelling evidence of what is possible when GESI is genuinely prioritized. These successful models, frequently spearheaded by women and local communities, powerfully illustrate how meticulously tailored approaches can significantly enhance resilience and empower vulnerable populations:

Kerala's Kudumbashree Solar Collectives (India)

This initiative showcases women-led cooperatives driving solar energy adoption, demonstrating economic empowerment and sustainable energy access at the community level.

Mahila Housing Trust's Heat Resilience Retrofits (India)

This organization has pioneered innovative, women-centered solutions for urban heat resilience, retrofitting homes to protect vulnerable communities from extreme temperatures.

Philippines' Women-Led Solar Micro-grids

Projects in Eastern Samar and Mindoro's Mangyan solar cooperatives exemplify how women can be trained as technicians and leaders, providing decentralized energy solutions and fostering local economic development.

India's Gender-Mandated Food-Security and Land-Rights Allocations

Under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, specific provisions ensure women's access to food security programs and land rights, addressing fundamental inequalities in the agricultural sector.

Bangladesh's Women's Federations in Mangrove Restoration and Community Seed Banks

These initiatives highlight women's critical role in ecological restoration and biodiversity preservation, enhancing community resilience to climate impacts.

Fiji's Solar Mama Barefoot Vocational College and UNDP's Gender-Prioritized Solar Minigrids

These programs empower women with technical skills in solar energy, enabling them to become agents of change in their communities and increase energy access.

Thailand's Women's Community Bioenergy Hubs for Coastal Fisheries

This innovation demonstrates how women can lead sustainable energy solutions that directly benefit their livelihoods in climate-vulnerable coastal regions.

8 Key Recommendations

To achieve genuinely inclusive, equitable, and sustainable climate action and energy transitions across the Asia Pacific, this Brief unequivocally recommends the implementation of the following strategic interventions:

8.1 Institutionalize GESI Targets

It is imperative to embed gender-disaggregated goals, specific budget lines, and robust accountability mechanisms within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), national energy and water policies, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks. This entails moving beyond aspirational language to concrete, measurable commitments that drive systemic change. Furthermore, developing comprehensive toolkits and targeted capacity-building programs for local governments and line ministries is essential to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively operationalize GESI principles at the subnational level.

8.2 Close Data Gaps

Mandating the systematic collection and rigorous use of sex-, age-, disability-, and ethnicity-disaggregated data is fundamental for informed policymaking and effective program design. This data must be integrated into all climate and sectoral monitoring systems to enable precise identification of vulnerabilities, track progress on GESI indicators, and ensure that interventions are truly reaching and benefiting diverse social groups. Investing in national statistical capacities to collect and analyze such granular data is a critical first step.

8.3 Scale Inclusive Finance

Establishing dedicated micro-grant windows, offering concessional loans, and designing innovative guarantee schemes specifically tailored for women- and Indigenous Peoples-led adaptation and renewable energy enterprises are of paramount importance. These financial mechanisms must be accessible, flexible, and responsive to the unique needs and capacities of grassroots organizations and marginalized communities. Simultaneously, efforts to enhance financial literacy and inclusion at the grassroots level must be significantly augmented to ensure effective utilization of these financial resources.

8.4 Enhance Capacity and Leadership

Substantial investment is required in targeted STEM scholarships, comprehensive technical training programs, and dedicated leadership development initiatives specifically designed for women and girls in critical sectors such as agriculture, water management, energy, and disaster preparedness. These programs should aim to equip them with the requisite proficiencies, foster their agency, and enable them to assume influential roles in climate-sensitive sectors and the burgeoning renewable energy workforce. Breaking down traditional gender barriers in these fields is crucial for a just transition.

8.5 Promote Community-Led, Rights-Based Models

It is essential to institutionalize Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), ensure the formal recognition of customary rights, and establish equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms within renewable energy and critical minerals policy frameworks. This approach respects the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, ensuring that large-scale development projects do not inadvertently exacerbate inequalities or lead to displacement. Prioritizing and scaling up successful community-based, women-led initiatives with sustained financial, technical, and institutional support is vital for long-term sustainability and broader impact.

8.6 Foster Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Creating robust platforms that facilitate strong collaboration among national governments, utilities, financial institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and women's and Indigenous networks is vital. These multi-stakeholder platforms should serve as spaces for co-creation, enabling the development of inclusive climate and energy solutions that are responsive to diverse needs and contexts. Such partnerships leverage varied expertise, build trust, and ensure that policies are grounded in lived realities, fostering collective ownership and more effective implementation.

9 Conclusion

The report serves as a resounding clarion call for a fundamental paradigm shift: moving decisively beyond mere tokenism to embed gender equality and social inclusion at the very core of climate and energy transitions in the Asia Pacific. True resilience, in its most comprehensive sense, necessitates the democratization of climate action—a process that emphatically amplifies the voices of those most profoundly affected, particularly women and marginalized communities. By centering lived experiences, strategically redistributing resources, and systematically dismantling entrenched structural barriers, inclusive climate governance can transcend aspiration and transform into tangible, impactful action. The experiences of countries like the Philippines, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, and Fiji unequivocally demonstrate both the urgent necessity and the immense potential of this transformative journey towards a truly climate-resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

Women farmers at work in their vegetable plots near Kullu town, Himachal Pradesh, India.