



UN-Women's Operational Response at the Regional Level: Asia and the Pacific

Executive Board
Annual Session

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Context

Complex Operating Environment

- Post-COVID19 economic downturns, reduction/redirection of development financing
- Increased frequency & intensity of climate – related events & disasters: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Tonga, Vanuatu.
- Complex emergencies & contexts impacting the geopolitical landscape & economic recovery: Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar.
- Shifting political landscapes: Elections in program countries Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands

Situation of Women & Girls

- Representation of women in leadership, politics & decision-making among the lowest in the world
- Female labor force participation rates (FLFS) declined by approx. 10% between 1990 & 2021, stands at 48.5% (MLFS- 83.4%).
- 52.64% of inactive women of working age cited unpaid care responsibilities as one of the main reasons for staying out of the labor force.
- Higher prevalence than the global average (27%) of Intimate Partner Violence, with sub regional variations.

Key Areas of Work Across the Region

Gender and Climate

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and Climate Change Gender Action Plans (CCGAPs)
- Women's visibility and leadership
- Women's access **to finance for climate-resilient activities**
- Production and use of **gender statistics**
- Enhancing **coordination** through IBCs: Climate Action, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network

Countries include: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam

Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Gender Mainstreaming Policy Frameworks on DRR
- **Resilience of Lives and Livelihoods**
- Meeting the needs of women and girls in humanitarian/ crisis contexts.
- Enhancing **coordination** through GiHA Working Group and IBC on Resilience.

Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji and Pacific, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines

Ending VAWG

- **National Action Plans on Ending VAW**
- Access to protection, services, education and economic opportunities.
- **Safe and fair migration**
- Social Norm Change
- Enhancing **coordination** through the UNITE Working Group.

Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam

Women's Economic Empowerment

- Law and Policy Change
- The **Decent Work** Agenda
- Skills and Income Training
- Facilitating **Market Access**
- **Private Sector Collaboration**
- Care agenda and gender statistics
- Enhancing **coordination** through IBC on Inclusive Economic Recovery.

Countries include: Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, PNG, Viet Nam

Inclusive Governance and WPS

- **National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security**
- Women's Political Participation
- Gender-Responsive **Institutional Reform**
- Enhancing **coordination** through the UN Coordination Group on WPS.

Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, PNG, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Solomon Islands Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam



Key results in 2022-2024

Gender and Climate

- Promoted **gender mainstreaming in climate action**: Gender-inclusive NDCs & CCGAPs.
- Conducted 2 **national surveys on gender-environment** (Tonga and Samoa)
- Explored connections between VAW and Disasters.

Ending VAWG

- Strengthened **VAW prevention and response**: 6 Action Plans on VAWG and trafficking adopted (4 National Action Plans, 1 Local Action Plan, 1 Regional Action Plan)
- Enhanced **national and regional institutional capabilities on VAW**: 21,953 key stakeholders equipped & providing services to VAW survivors.

Inclusive Governance and WPS

- Advanced **National Action Plans on WPS**: 2 NAPs on Women, Peace and Security adopted (Philippines and Sri Lanka).
- Supported **WPS Agenda Localisation**: In 6 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste).
- Facilitated **increased commitment to women's leadership and political participation**: AIPA General Assembly 44 Resolution on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience through Women's Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments

Women's Economic Empowerment

- Advanced the **decent work agenda**: policies, standards & practices.
- Advanced **private sector engagement in WEE**: 2,406 total WEPs signatories/ impacting 5.2 million employees
- Improved **women's skills, income opportunities and market access**

Coordination

- Strengthened **UN coordination in humanitarian/crisis contexts**: expanded to Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines
- Regional UN coordination group on WPS
- **Enhanced programming results** across thematic areas through **joint work/programmes** with other UN agencies.
- Advanced **GEWE in intergovernmental normative processes**: CSW, BPfA.



Strategic priorities in 2024-2025

NORMATIVE

- **Beijing+30 review and CSW 69:** Support Member State engagement and strengthen accountabilities
- **SDGs:** Six Transitions

PROGRAMMATIC

- **Prevention Hub** to advance social norms change and protocols for systematically handling cases of gender-based violence
- **Building national statistical capacities to generate data** on gender-environment, Unpaid care and domestic work, and data usage
- **Livelihood/economic security/care** across humanitarian, peace, development nexus
- Advance corporate **Economic Empowerment Strategy**, contextualized
- **Inclusive Governance and WPS** including stock-taking during 25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (2025)

COORDINATION

- **Leveraging** Asia-Pacific Regional Collaborative Platform – and co-leadership of Issue-Based Coalition on Promoting Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, UN Coordination Group on WPS, IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.
- Supporting implementation of **UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan**
- Support UNCTs on CCA/UNSDCF on **mainstreaming** Human Rights Based Approaches, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment principles
- Engagement with **regional platforms/inter-governmental bodies** for enhanced collaboration and coordination (ASEAN)





Thank you