

*Summary recommendations under the project
for different stakeholders in the Govt.*

GUCCI Project Team

Mrs. Kalyani Raj, Member in Charge AIWC

Dr. Nimisha Jha, Technical Expert, AIWC

All India Women's Conference
6 - Bhagwan Das road, Agha Khan Hall
New Delhi – 110001, India.



Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

The publication is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

About the Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative (GUCCI) Project

“Gender Into Urban Climate Change Initiative” is a project led by Gender CC-Women for Climate Justice conducted in collaboration with All India Women’s Conference, GenderCC Southern Africa, and Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice and Solidaritas Perempuan in Indonesia. The project was launched in 2015 and is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU). GenderCC–Women for Climate Justice is a global network of organizations, experts and activists working for gender equality, women’s rights and climate justice. The “Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative” explores options for integrating gender and social aspects into climate policies in several pilot cities. It seeks to build capacity at local level and develop gender-responsive policy recommendations with the aim of strengthening citizens’ ability to become involved in urban planning processes and implementation, and to enhance the effectiveness, inclusiveness and acceptance of local mitigation and adaptation policies. We represent the All India Women’s Conference (AIWC) and have implemented the project in India.

The goal of this document is to serve as a guide for mainstreaming gender equality so that discrimination that impedes the survival of marginalized groups, such as women, can be decreased. It is critical to acknowledge that the patriarchal system passively determines the tasks and responsibilities of each gender, thereby limiting and varying the response mechanisms for specific needs of gender. For example, in traditional developing-world societies, women frequently assume several duties, including working in the service sector, making multiple journeys to the market and schools, managing the family, caring for the elderly and young children, and so on. Despite the diverse work system, women do not have an equal say in decision-making or resource allocation, which further restricts their opportunities and limits their participation in crucial decision-making platforms.

1. Findings from the Gender Assessment in India

The Gender Assessment and Monitoring of Mitigation and Adaptation methodology has been used to address the existing gaps in India’s urban climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. AIWC GUCCI team has conducted gender assessments for Indian cities with the aim of establishing how existing and future policies can be made more effective and equitable by integrating gender lens and social dimensions into the planning and implementation process. The process involved several steps such as; covering the institutional setting and procedures, creation of Country’s portfolio of climate change policies and measures, and selecting climate change policies for further analysis. The assessments were conducted to find out whether the climate change policies and programs in India resonate with the gendered approach or have co-benefits for all.

Some of the major findings of gender assessment and recommendations to improve them in the country are shared under various heads, as below:

1. Integrate gender into urban climate policy addressing cities, as well as city associations and networks

- a. Firstly, a time bound climate change policy exclusively for each major city must be formulated and all municipal employees must be alerted about its existence and its importance. Then, a training plan must be formulated to educate municipal officials regarding gender and climate change. All departments of the municipal corporation must participate, so they are on the same page as to the vision and mission of the climate change policy.
- b. Climate change units should be established in each municipality, consisting of government officials, women's groups, elected representatives, local business' representatives, etc to discuss and map out a path on climate change challenges in their respective localities.
- c. The monitoring of the climate policy should be done within the quarterly progress reports submitted to the mayor's office and shared with all stakeholders.
- d. Dedicated work zones for informal outdoor workers, in particular street vendors who have lost their market place, as in many areas there were streets earmarked for them on which they were conducting their business.
- e. Restoration of emergency services with immediate effect after any natural calamity as it puts additional pressure on the women as they are care givers in their families.

2. Policy recommendations addressing national and regional governments on how to guide and support cities to integrate gender into urban climate policy

- a) The knowledge about climate change should be enhanced through more interactions amongst policy makers. It could help in identifying more concrete ways to combat climate change and increase their willingness to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.
- b) Training sessions/ programmes on the theme of climate change should be conducted by the government from time to time. These awareness building activities will also improve inter coordination in the issues and encourage cohesive work in the domain.
- c) The regional and the national government could take policy inputs from the research institutes/universities/practitioners from time to time.
- d) The local employment generation should also take into account its climate change impacts and address the gender aspects. One way could be to include families; especially women in the plantation of mangroves and handling them the responsibility to protect it.
- e) The regional governments should develop climate action plan parallel to the National Climate Action Plan and then proceed with the policy with local stakeholders based on vulnerability. These plans should specially include women in community-based adaptation initiatives and adaptation planning in all levels.
- f) The regional government should make use of the traditional knowledge of forest dwellers, fisherfolk, tribal communities about biodiversity to combat climate change. Their knowledge can be valuable to discover, implement and promote nature-based solutions to tackle climate change challenges.
- g) Document area specific biodiversity - flora and fauna - would be useful to understand range, seasonality, variety of species that are local. This is important to design conservation and restoration activities.
- h) Women are involved in natural resource management and also conservation of resources. Therefore, they must be co-opted as stakeholders in bio-diversity conservation.

- i) Women need to be recruited and trained to be first responders during natural disasters. Providing community specific training to women can help increase their awareness and preparedness during natural disasters.

3. A brief summary of key policy recommendations addressing national governments on how to integrate gender into national climate policy

- a) The government should encourage full-fledged research on the gender issues in climate change and take its inputs from time to time. Including more women's voices and accepting their perspectives is one very necessary step that the government must look into. For this to be implemented a gender responsive survey should be conducted in vulnerable areas.
- b) To encourage better coordination between the departments training session(s) and capacity building activities should be carried out to prioritise climate change and also avoid working in silos.
- c) Provide support such as special discounts on purchasing and on taxes of electric vehicle to products for e.g.: Electric Vehicle (EV) to reduce GHG emissions. The technology should be made poor friendly by providing subsidies so a larger amount of people can adopt it.
- d) Strengthen women's capacities to advance their leadership for community resilience and for gender sensitive climate policies.
- e) Increase climate financing mechanism with a demonstrated gender impact.
- f) Promote gender just transitions towards sustainable and localized economies.
- g) Recognize and upscale traditional knowledge systems, innovation and technologies developed at the local level by women in their communities.
- h) Develop a centralised, well-structured and streamlined data collection policy that covers not only wildlife but also water bodies and vegetation for monitoring and surveillance purposes.
- i) Strengthen resilience of habitats especially in the coastal areas by advising measures on retrofitting/ relocation of coastal housing in view of the recurrence and intensity of extreme events and sea level rise due to climate change.
- j) The existing disaster management policies need to be inclusive and prepared with the consultation of representatives from different sections of the society especially the vulnerable sections of society. Hence, it is suggested to involve gender experts working on climate change, such as AIWC or UN Women, to provide training to policymakers on bringing a gendered approach while formulating climate change policies.
- k) The government should identify the networks and organisations that can support the implementation of communication and sensitisation initiatives at the national, state and local level and work towards large scale social mobilisation and communication.
- l) The civil society has much better understanding and the connection at the ground level than the government agencies since it has often been the case that there is either less or not at all communication with the community people. Civil society can help in reducing this gap for a better outreach. It is important to establish a structure for India through which the civil society and government can interact freely. Through this the government's task to reach out to local groups or running campaign can be done easily. Civil society organizations can bridge the gap between government and the citizens.

4. Key recommendations on the linkage of climate change, pandemic and gender

- a) Achieving universal food security is important in pandemic in such a dire condition to be able to avail the government relief services is much needed for future reference.
- b) The requirements specific to gender and sexual identities need to be reflected in the policies that are formulated and the ways in which they are implemented.
- c) Gender disaggregated data should be captured to have representations in the decision-making processes, and to include the minority groups in policy process.
- d) Develop long term assistance and investment in social protection programs for the gender-responsive economic recovery and educational enhancement that ‘builds back better’ for the government relief measures to be adequate and accessible, especially with regard to food security. This will allow the implementation of the Sendai Framework of for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-30. Investments in universal, gender responsive social protection systems to support women’s income security.
- e) Partnership with state and local government to develop response to the pandemic in India. The response phase should clearly highlight the role of the governments at all levels.
- f) A comprehensive long-term strategy needs to be formulated for preventive care and health of non-COVID women and children health and nutrition. Planning and tracking of Antenatal Care (ANC) and Postnatal Care (PNC) needs to be done.
- g) The capacity- building trainings are also required at a bigger scale of different gender groups in order for them to cope and adjust according to their strategic and practical needs.
- h) Social justice, development of different gender group and promoting livelihood opportunities and developing skills may be achieved through the government schemes like MGNREGS and PMKVY. These programmes should make sure that women farmers, women engaged in fishing, poultry, daily wage women labourers, and those in the informal sector in urban and semi-urban areas are not exploited financially, physically, psychologically and helps in building their skills and capacities.