

## Good Practice Series on Transparency

# Armenia's Approach to Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Policy and Reporting

Gender | Data Collection & Management



### Background

Armenia's Gender Policy Implementation Strategy and Action Plan, approved by Government Decision #1334-L in 2019, prioritizes equal participation of women in decision-making processes and promotes gender equality in science, education, and socio-economic development.

In 2024, Armenia submitted [information](#) to the UNFCCC detailing progress, challenges, gaps, and priorities in implementing its gender action plan.

### Challenges addressed

Key challenges in Armenia's gender and climate change agenda prior to recent improvements included limited technical and institutional capacities, a lack of sex-disaggregated data, and insufficient integration of gender-sensitive approaches in national climate policy formulation and transparent reporting.

In 2019, Armenia established the Council on Women's Affairs, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister. A Working Group established under the Council is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and is responsible for Gender Policies within the Government. The Group *inter alia* addresses the climate and transparency issues, composing by 80% of women.

### Approach

The primary approach focused on strengthening the evidence base on the gender-climate change nexus. For instance, UNDP supported various [studies and surveys](#) to assess gaps and needs (Box 1). These efforts facilitated the integration of climate-related policies and actions into Armenia's National Strategy for Gender Equality and its Action Plan for 2024–2026, while also improving monitoring, reporting, and evaluation frameworks.

For the first time, Armenia's Statistical Committee included subsections on "Environment and Gender" and "Climate Change and Gender" in its Yearbook 'Men and Women' (Pic 1).

To support gender-based climate actions within transparency and reporting efforts, the *Guidance on Consideration of Gender-Related Requirements in Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) and National Communications (NC)* was officially adopted.

Currently, all key national policy documents, including the [NDC](#) and the latest transparency reports ([3<sup>rd</sup> BUR](#), [4<sup>th</sup> NC](#), and [NAP](#)), incorporate a gender-sensitive approach in their communication of information.

### Country Report's History

| NCs | BURs | NIRs | NAP |
|-----|------|------|-----|
| 4   | 3    | 4    | 1   |

### Responsible Institution

The Ministry of Environment of Armenia serves as the UNFCCC National Gender Focal Point, while the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs addresses gender and social aspects at the national level.

## Success Factors

- High-level political support for integrating gender and social aspects into climate policy was a key factor for success.
- Critical factor was the technical support provided by UNDP and other international organizations, which included conducting targeted case studies and capacity-building sessions to inform stakeholders about action plans related to the gender and climate nexus.
- The improved institutional arrangements, through the establishment and operation of working groups (WGs), had enhanced the coordination and implementation of adopted policies, as well as ensured the fulfillment of reporting commitments.

### Example of gender mainstreaming process for water sector:

The issue of gender vulnerability was specifically addressed in the Water Sector Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. Based on this study, relevant measures were identified and incorporated into the Water Sector Adaptation Plan, which was adopted by Government Decision #1692-L on November 3, 2022:

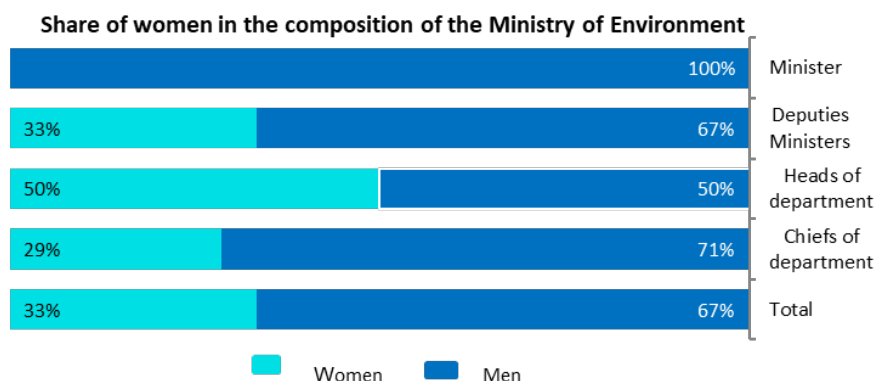
- **Enhance women's participation** in decision-making and governance at national and sub-national levels.
- **Raise awareness** among local self-governments on water sector adaptation priorities within their communities, focusing on gender-sensitive approaches.
- **Identify vulnerable social groups** and assess their specific needs at the sub-national level.
- **Ensure access to improved sanitation** in schools and kindergartens in communities without centralized water supply.
- **Promote awareness and capacity-building initiatives** on water conservation, drip irrigation, rainwater use, and disaster risk management.
- **Implement water and agriculture-related projects** at regional and community levels, including trainings, the introduction of new technologies, and business initiatives, all with a gender-sensitive approach.

### Box 1: Targeted studies on social and climate change related topics

Sociological surveys have provided detailed insights into gender and social vulnerability at the community level, serving in some cases as a unique source of data for assessing the gender and social impacts of climate change on various population groups and household types typical to each community.

These efforts included:

- Household surveys on gender/social vulnerability and climate change-related issues,
- Focus group discussions,
- In-depth interviews with community leaders,
- Grassroots data collection through roundtable discussions with local NGOs, journalists, youth organizations, and other stakeholders.



Pic 1. Share of women in the Ministry of Environment

## Further Areas of Improvement

- **Disaggregate climate change** vulnerability and adaptation monitoring and evaluation indicators by gender.
- **Increase the number of women** in decision-making roles in key development sectors, particularly in the water sector.
- **Enhance the technical and institutional capacities** of key stakeholder institutions on the gender and climate nexus.