UNITED NATIONS
10TH GLOBAL FORUM
ON GENDER STATISTICS

1-3 OCTOBER 2025
TBILISI, GEORGIA

Measuring gender and climate change in Cambodia: Evidence from national specialized surveys on gender and the environment

Mr. Sok Kosal
Deputy Director General
National Institute of Statistics
Cambodia

Gender and climate change are connected

1. **Unequal Impacts of Climate Change**
   - Floods, droughts, storms, heat waves, etc. do not affect everyone equally.
   - Women and marginalized groups are more vulnerable due to pre-existing inequalities.

2. Unequal impacts of women and men on climate change
   - Women and men's differentiated roles (e.g. jobs, unpaid work, etc.) and behaviors (recycling, replanting, use of pesticides, etc.) have different impacts on the environment.

3. Resource and Opportunity Gaps
   - Women often have less access to land, credit, technology, and finance.
   - Limited participation in decision-making reduces their ability to influence climate responses.

3. Adaptation and Coping Constraints
   - Marginalized groups typically have fewer options to prepare for, respond to, or recover from climate shocks.
   - Social and economic inequalities make resilience-building more difficult.

4. Policy Implications
   - Climate policies that overlook gender differences risk reinforcing or worsening inequalities.
   - Integrating gender perspectives ensures fair, inclusive, and effective climate action.

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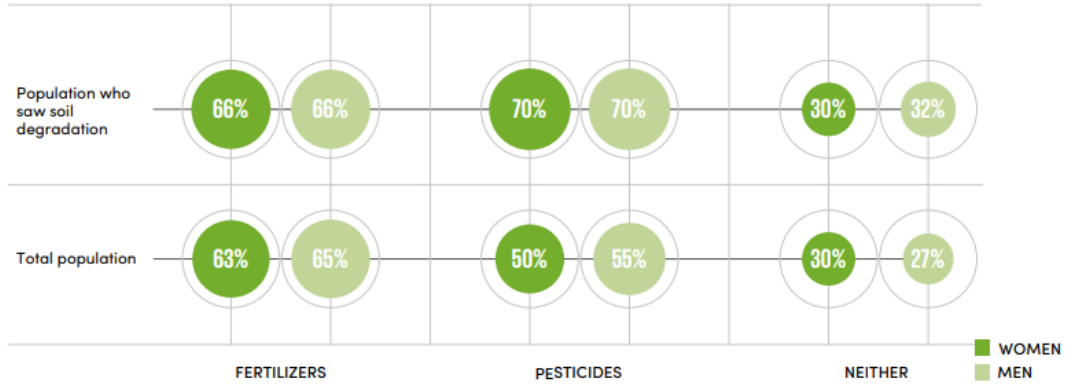
Unequal impacts of cc on women and men: Women are more likely to give up their food

Figure 20: Proportion of the population who decreased food intake as a result of climate change, by sex and household composition (percentage)

Unequal impacts of women and men on cc: Men more likely to use pesticides, which cause soil degradation, increase carbon release

Figure 36: Proportion of the population utilizing land for agriculture or livestock grazing who use pesticides or fertilizers, by whether or not they noticed soil degradation, and by sex (percentage)



Why Gender Statistics Matter in the context of climate change

Evidence & Visibility
- Disaggregated data shows who is most at risk and why.
- Makes women's and marginalized groups' vulnerabilities visible in climate debates.

Targeted Interventions
- Guides resources to the groups most affected by climate impacts
- Supports tailored adaptation and resilience programs.

Equity & Fairness
- Prevents policies from reinforcing existing inequalities.
- Ensures benefits and opportunities are shared fairly across groups.

Policy Responsiveness
- Provides insights into local realities and coping strategies.
- Strengthens inclusive decision-making and accountability.

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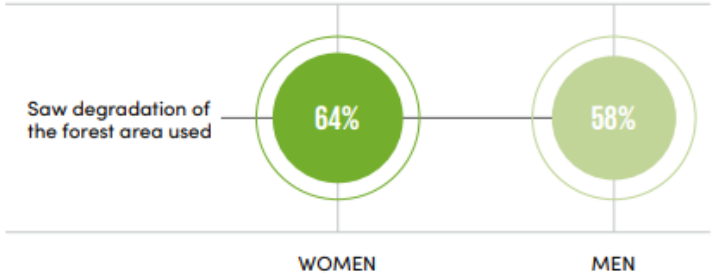
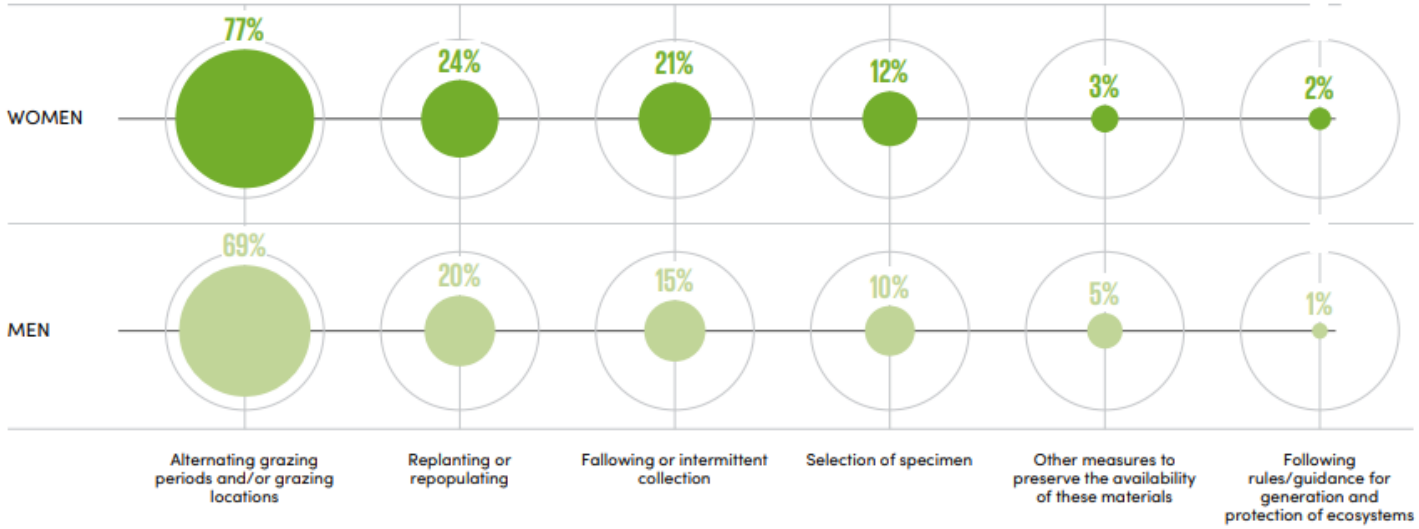
Who is most at risk of being affected?: Women are more likely to use primary forests for subsistence and to notice forest degradation

Figure 40: Proportion of wild forest users who saw degradation of the forest area used, including drops in total area and biodiversity loss, by sex (percentage)



Differentiated behaviors require targeted interventions: Women are more likely to manage forests sustainably. Policies must target those who don't

Figure 66: Proportion of wild forest users who use sustainable management practices, by sex (percentage)



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Learning from National Survey Experiences

Methodology: Cambodia's Gender and Environment Survey

About Gender and Environment Surveys

- CGES data help understand gender differences vis-a-vis the environment, inform national environmental policies, and help meet global reporting commitments towards SDGs, Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Beijing.
- Designed by UN Women to capture economic and non-economic activities, for women and men in each household. No proxy respondent is used. Build on international hazard classification.
- Using this information, the Model Questionnaire was tailored to the Cambodian context, to better reflect national priorities.
- All individuals 15 or older were eligible within each household
- One adult man and one adult women chosen at random from each household (5,000 households sampled, a total of 4,961 women and 4,843 men were interviewed)

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Integration of Gender into Climate Data Systems

- Gender and environment surveys help increasingly include gender perspectives into national statistical systems.
- Ensures women's and men's roles, vulnerabilities, and contributions are captured and no one left behind.

Innovative Approaches & Methodologies

- Surveys measure exposure to climate risks, vulnerability to shocks, and adaptive capacity by sex.
- Identify inequalities in access to land, finance, technology, and environmental decision-making.

Evidence to Inform Policy & Programs

- Gender data highlights gaps in resilience and recovery support.
- Provides a stronger evidence base for equitable resource allocation.

Cross-Country Learning & Best Practices

- Sharing experiences helps countries avoid duplication and adopt proven tools.
- Encourages harmonized standards, comparability, and stronger monitoring frameworks.

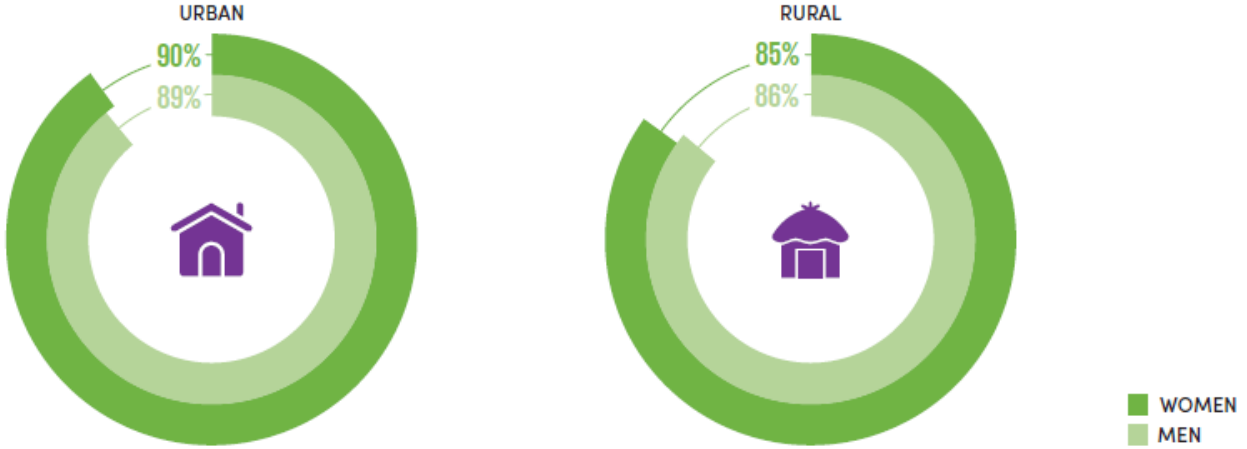
Key Finding: Exposure to environmental hazards is widespread

IN CAMBODIA

99 per cent
OF PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED HAZARDS

MOST PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED
4 or more
DISASTERS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Figure 2: Proportion of the population whose dwelling unit or land is located in areas with high environmental risk, by sex and location (percentage)



Key Finding: Disasters affect women and men differently

Figure 5: Proportion of the population exposed to hazards in the past 12 months who encountered barriers to accessing medical care or hygiene products as a result, by sex and displacement status (percentage)

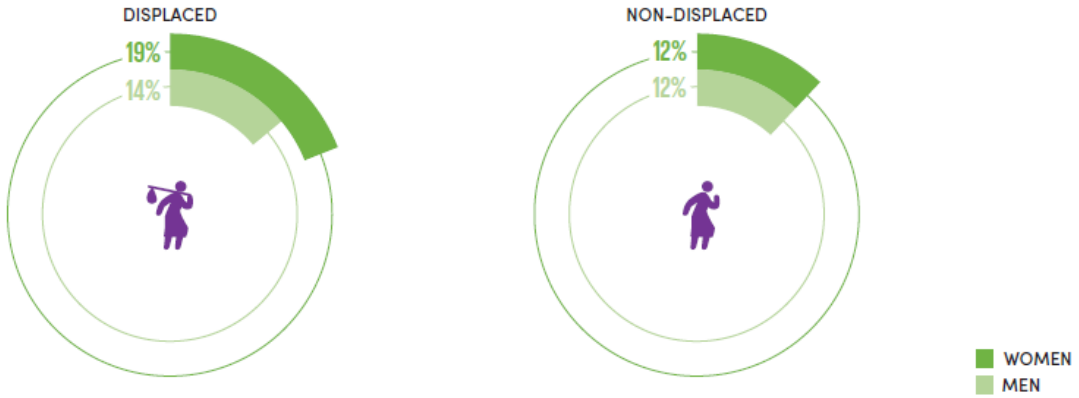


Figure 10: Proportion of the population exposed to hazards in the past 12 months whose time spent on unpaid care and domestic work increased as a result, by sex and type (percentage)

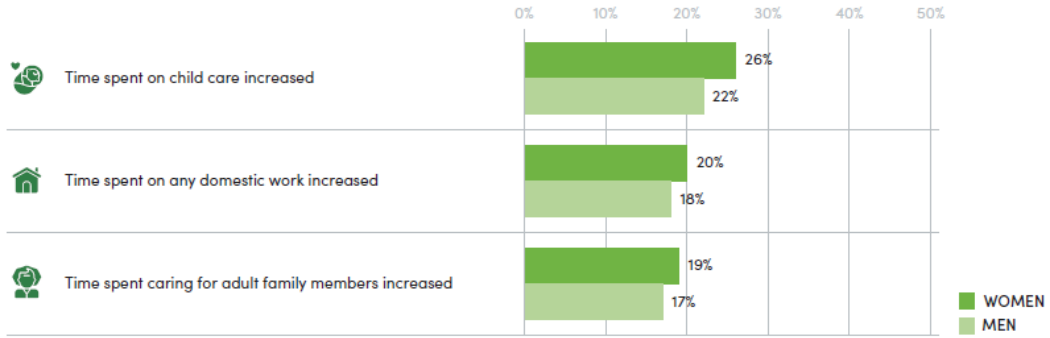
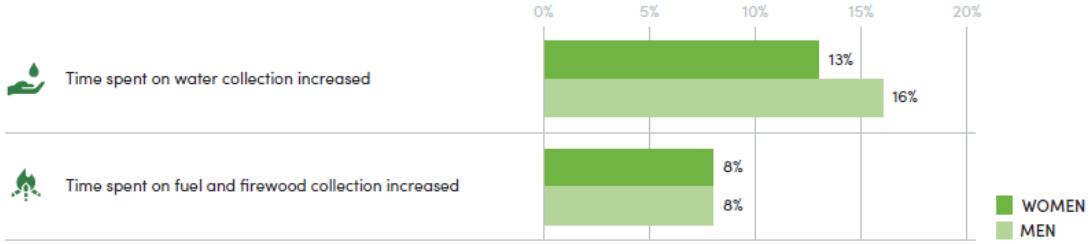


Figure 11: Proportion of the population exposed to hazards in the past 12 months whose time spent on water and fuel collection increased, by sex (percentage)



Key Finding: Climate change worsened the health of 4 in every 5 people – along with women's care burdens

Figure 22: Proportion of the population who attributed health ailments to the effects of climate change, by sex and type (percentage)

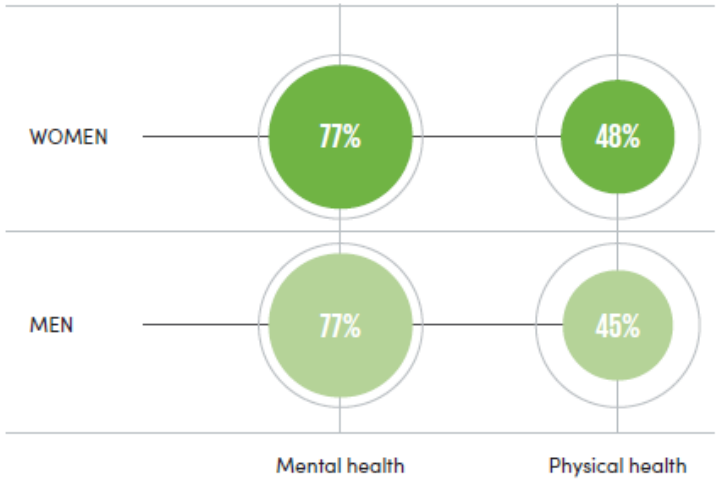
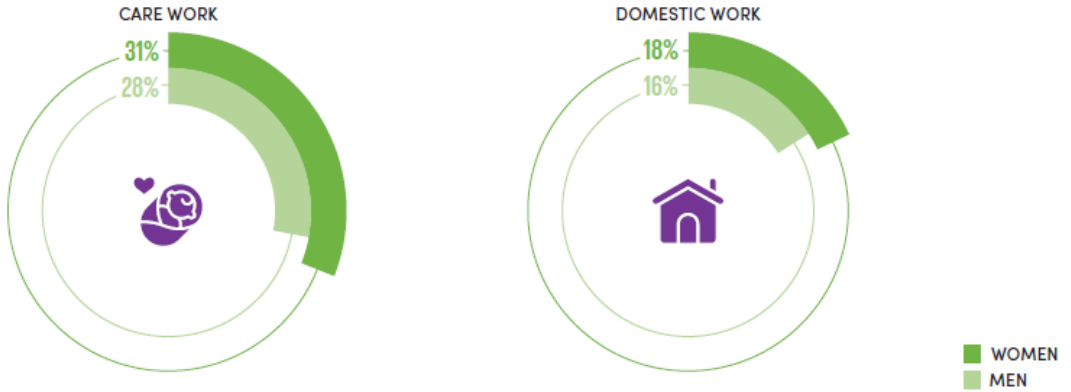
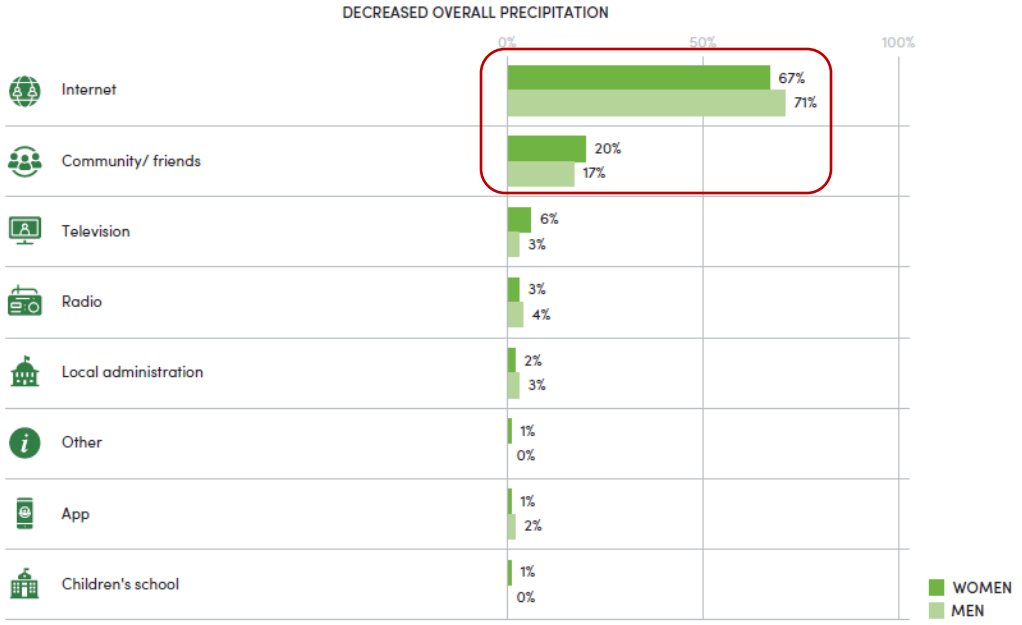


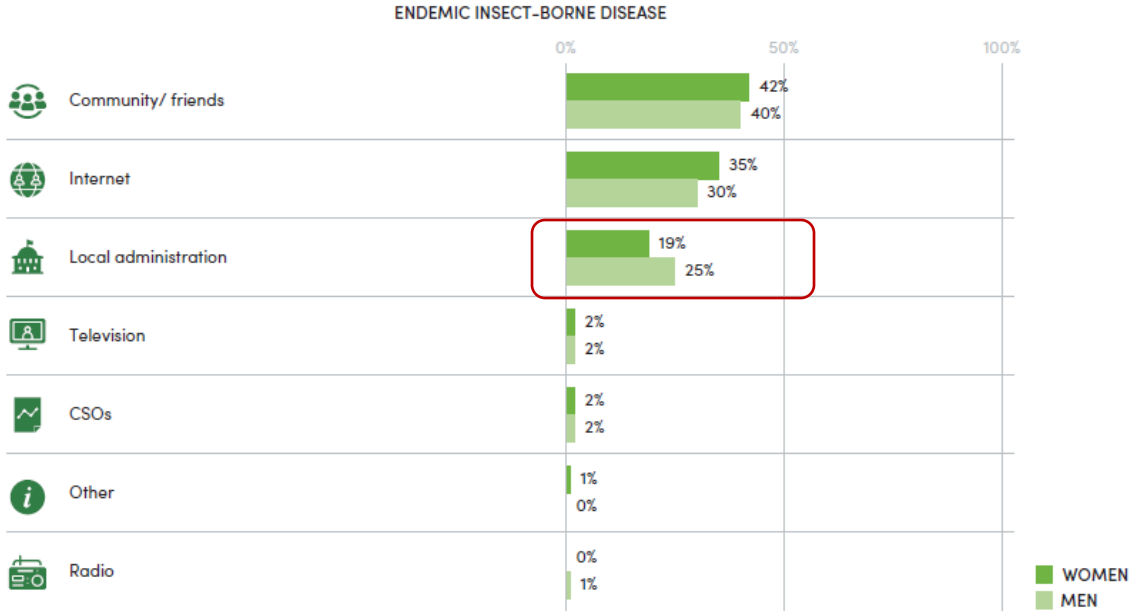
Figure 23: Proportion of the population whose time spent on care work (left) or domestic work (right) increased as a result of climate change, by sex (percentage)



Key Finding: Women and men use different sources of information, this leads to different levels of preparedness

Figure 19: Proportion of the population with access to information on the effects of (a) decreased overall precipitation and (b) endemic insect-borne disease, by sex and source (percentage)





Key Finding: Agricultural yield is dropping and pesticide use increasing as a result of climate change; women less likely to manage pesticides properly

Figure 25: Proportion of land or livestock users who noted climate-related drops in agricultural yield in the past 5 years, by sex and whether this was their main source of income (percentage)

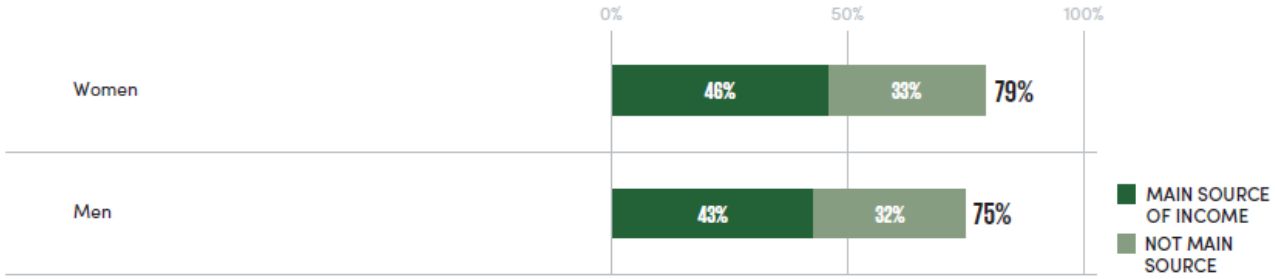


Figure 27: Proportion of land or livestock users who attributed their increased use of pesticides or antibiotics to the effects of climate change, by sex and effect (percentage)

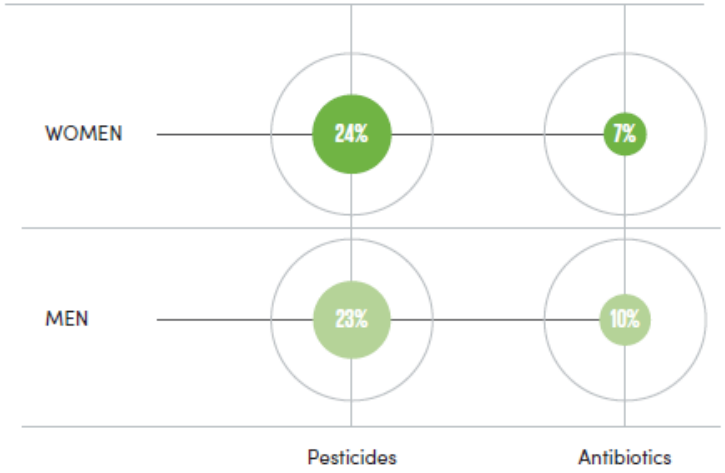
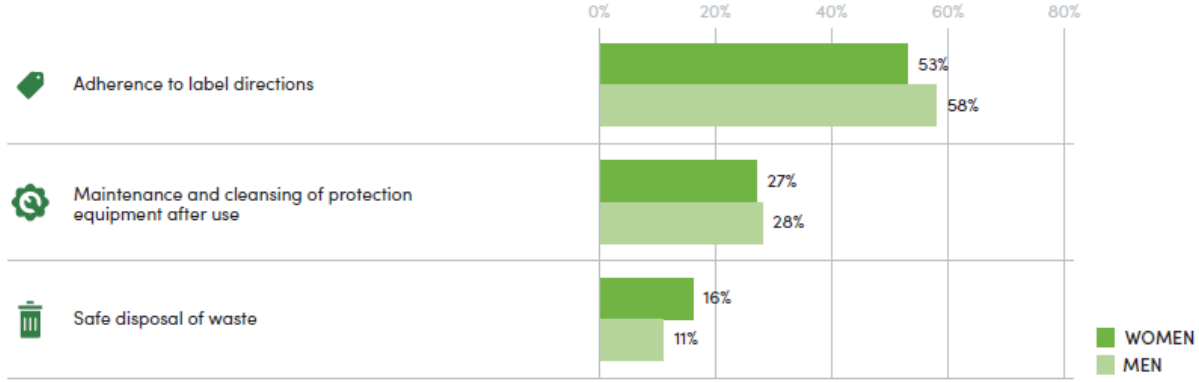


Figure 54: Proportion of the population applying synthetic or mineral pesticides that put in place measures to prevent impacts on human health, by sex (percentage)



Key Finding: Women notice fish stock depletion the most, but have fewer options to deal with it

Figure 63: Proportion of fishing/aquatic harvesting population, by sex and fishing method (percentage)

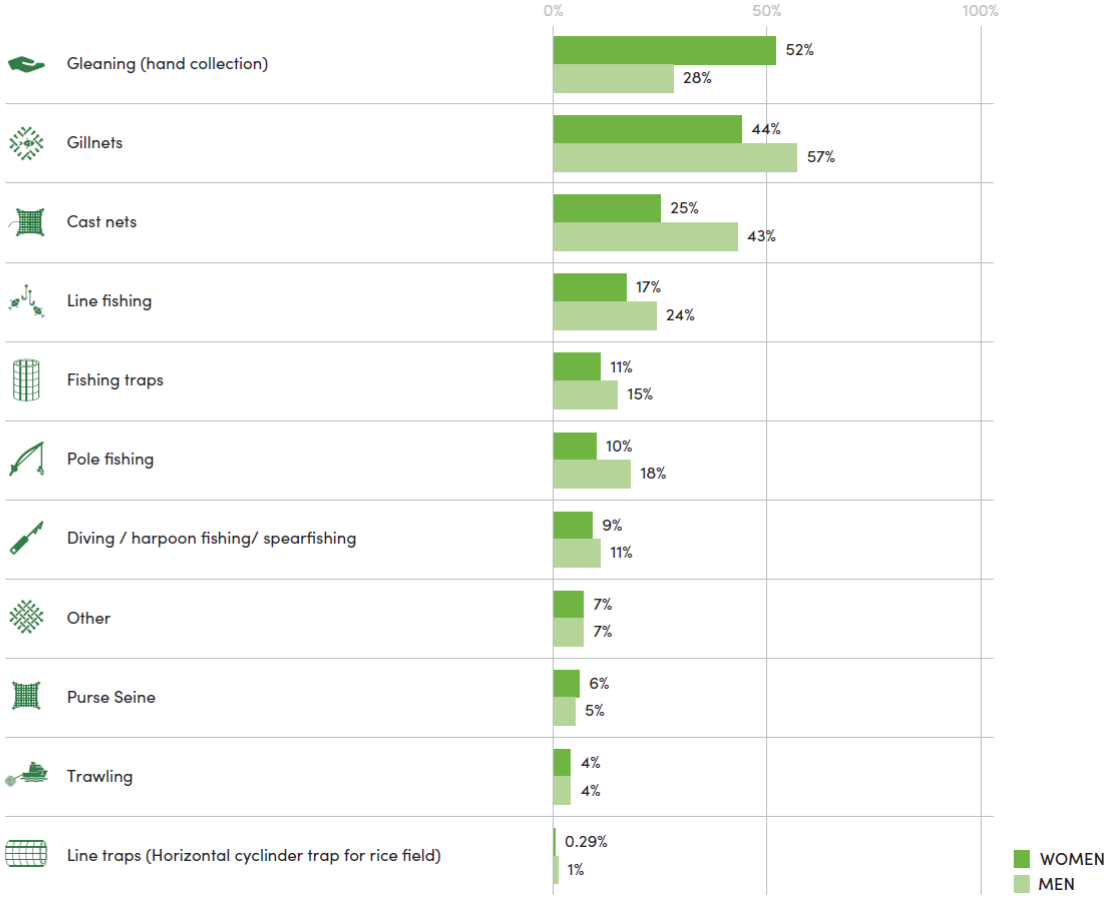
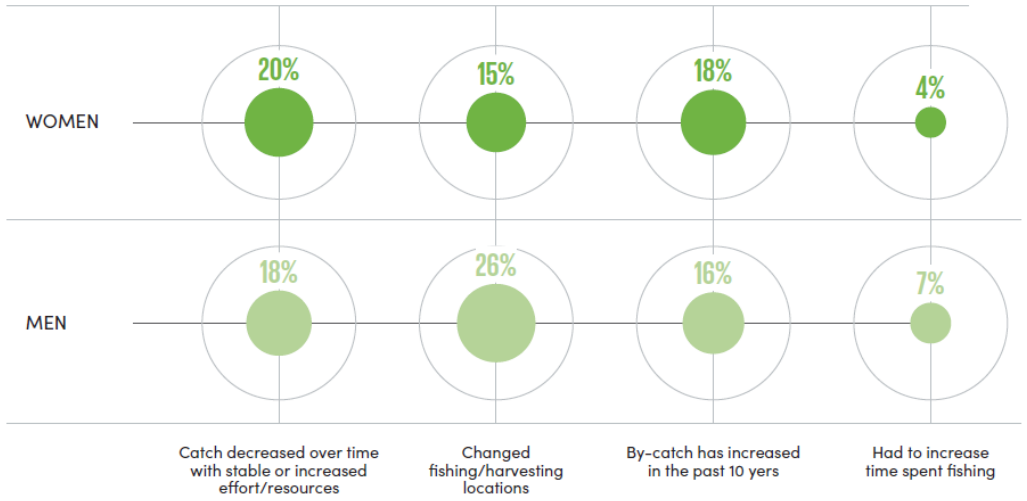


Figure 42: Proportion of fishing/marine harvesting population who noticed the effects of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, by sex (percentage)



Key Finding: Green jobs are still a small share of the Cambodian job market – and dominated by men

Figure 68: Proportion of the employed population whose green jobs pertain to the production of environmental outputs, by sex

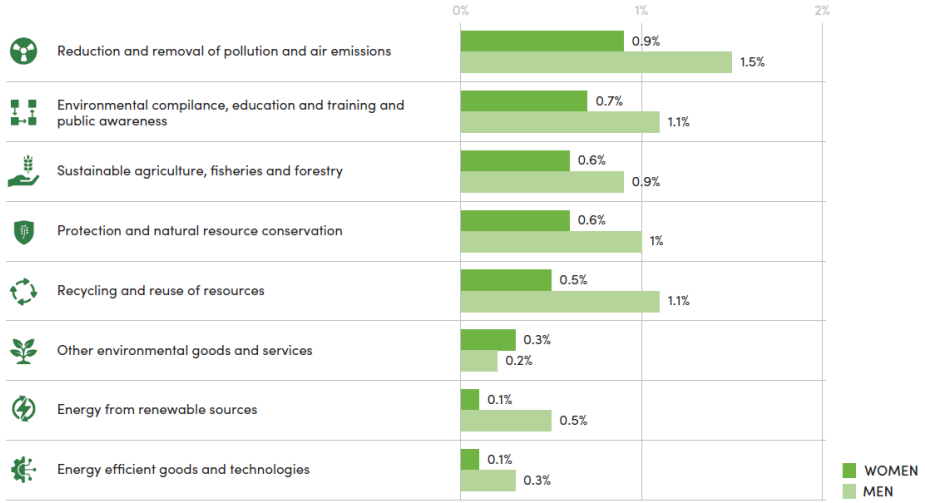


Figure 69: Proportion of the employed population whose green jobs pertain to environmental processes, by sex

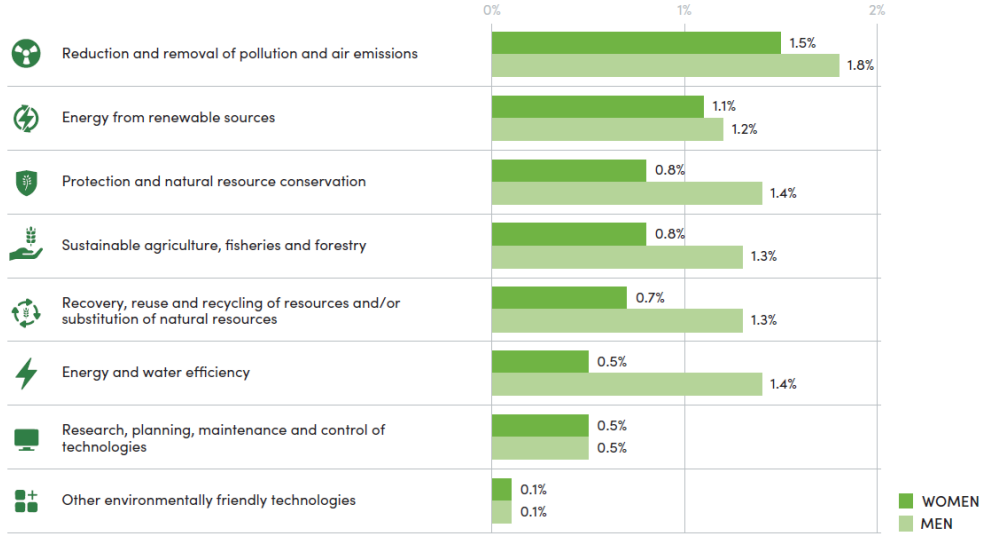
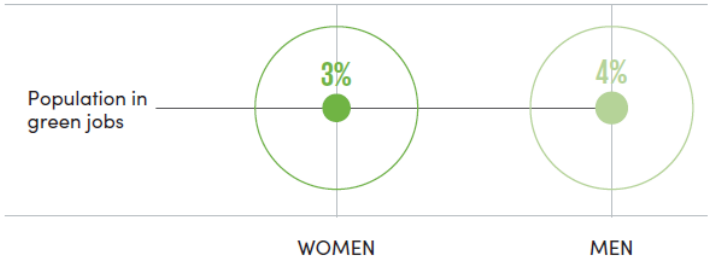


Figure 67: Proportion of the employed population that engaged in green jobs over the past month, by sex, and by share of working time spent (percentage)



Key Finding: Contributions to decision-making are limited. Owning assets gives agency at home.

Figure 88: Proportion of the population engaging in environmental decision-making, by sex (percentage)

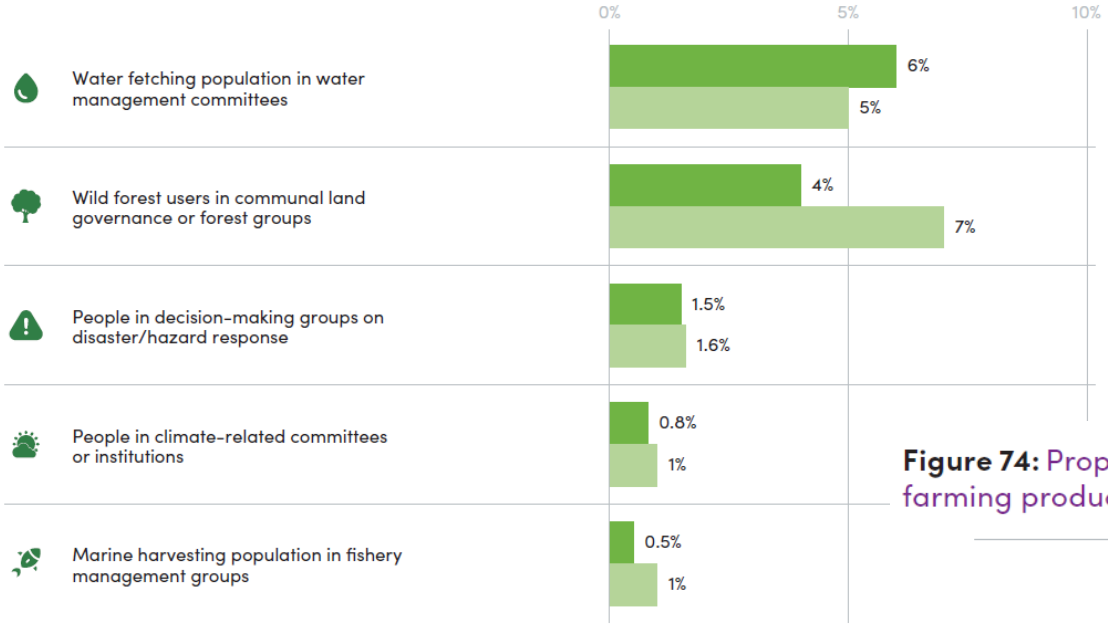
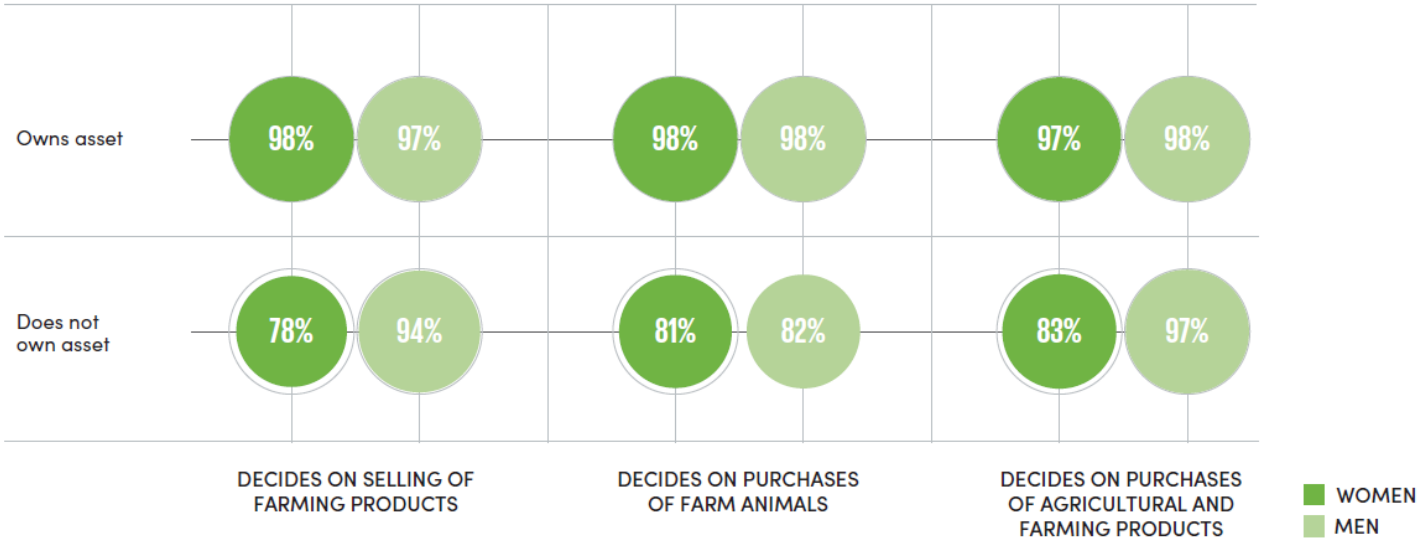


Figure 74: Proportion of the population who usually decide alone, regarding purchases and sales of farming products and animals, by sex and type of ownership (percentage)



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Challenges and lessons from data collection

Challenges

- Respondent availability: Interviews were sometimes delayed when household members were absent, requiring interviewers to wait or return later.
- Language and technical content: Certain Khmer translations, particularly in Modules 4–6, were not fully aligned with social context or technical specifications. Questions on climate change and biodiversity were often difficult for interviewers to understand and convey to respondents.
- Access to remote and challenging areas: Traveling required special arrangements, especially during the rainy season, which slowed data collection.
- Health and safety risks: Field staff were exposed to risks such as dog bites, traffic accidents, dengue fever, and agricultural chemical exposure.

Lesson Learnt

- Advance planning and flexibility: Scheduling interviews should anticipate household member absences and remote area travel difficulties, with contingency plans for revisits and special transport.
- Translation and technical review: Questionnaires should be carefully translated and reviewed in Khmer, particularly for technical topics such as climate change and biodiversity, ensuring clarity for both interviewers and respondents.
- Technical capacity building: Interviewers benefit from in-depth training and close guidance from subject-matter experts to handle complex questions accurately.
- Logistics and resource management: Timely disbursement of travel funds, allowances, and subsidies is critical to maintain staff motivation and smooth field operations.
- Health and safety precautions: Fieldwork planning should include risk assessments and preventive measures to protect staff from accidents, illnesses, and exposure to hazardous substances.
- Adaptation for remote and challenging areas: Special strategies, including flexible schedules, alternative transport modes, and additional personnel, are necessary to ensure coverage in hard-to-reach locations.

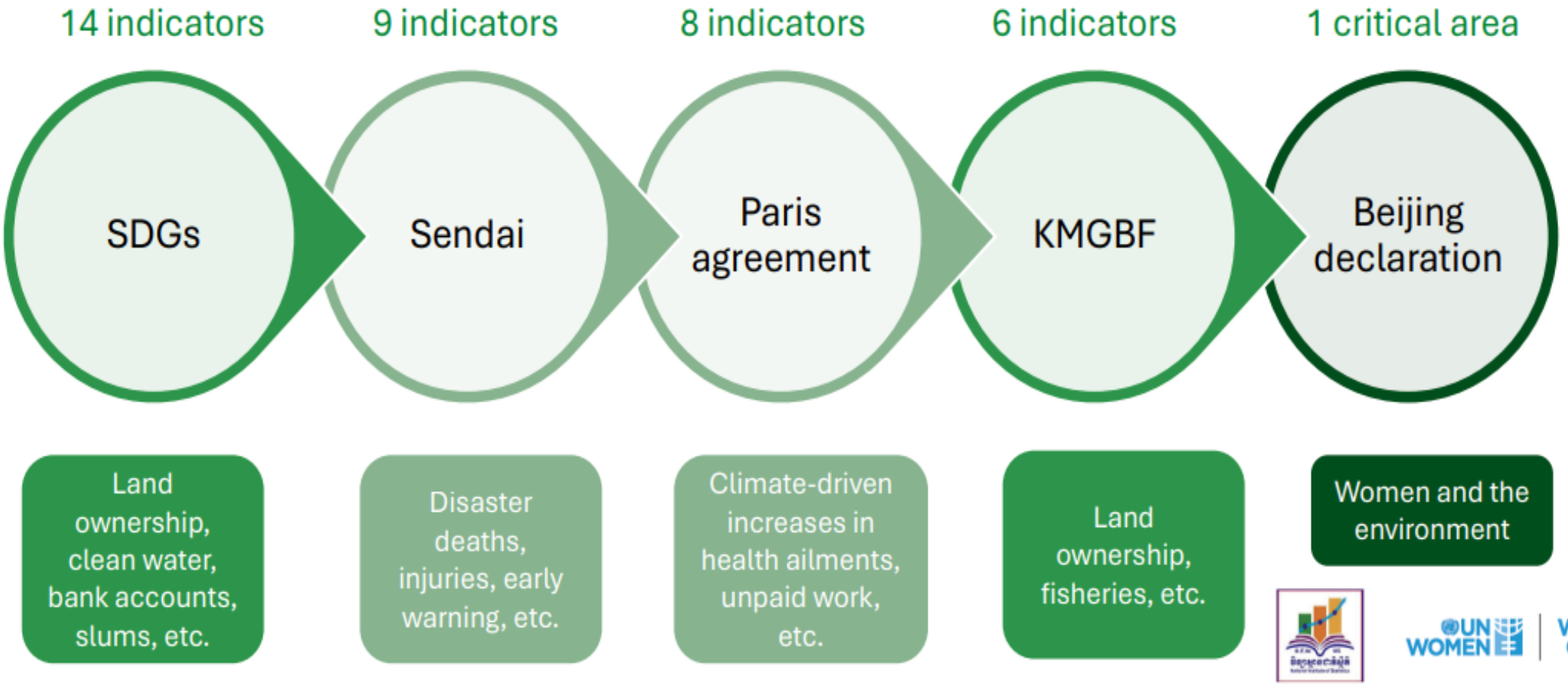
Recommendations linked to key findings

	Key finding	Recommendation
	High hazard exposure affects women's agriculture, livestock and access to health products disproportionately; worsens unpaid work burdens.	- Access to affordable healthcare for all, including in rural areas - Supporting women's transition to climate-resilient crops.
	Climate change affects physical and mental health of all, especially women. Single parents and women are eating less to cope.	- Changing social norms for women and men to share burdens more evenly. - Better access to hazard-related early warning information (all hazards, all sources).
	Increased use of pesticides to maintain agricultural yields, which leads to soil degradation and health impacts. Risks aren't understood.	- Enhancing farmer education, incl. to understand label directions. - Tightening regulations, incl. to promote the use of precision farming and limit hazardous substance use - Continue practice of seed selection.

Recommendations linked to key findings

Key finding	Recommendation
Primary forests are disappearing. Women are noticing the most, but also implementing more sustainable forest management practices.	- Enhance protection of forest areas. - Education and training towards sustainable management.
Fish stock depletion affects women and men. Men are switching locations or using more intensive fishing gear. Women have less options.	- Enforce fishing regulations, including catch limits. - Ban destructive fishing methods. - Enhance fish stock monitoring (local fishing populations working with national authorities to report and enforce consistently). - Monitoring and expand marine protected areas and sanctuaries, including to cover river and lake communities.
Less than 3% of jobs are green, most held by men. Waste management, dominated by women, but remuneration remains unfair. Sustainable public transportation is rarely used	- Equal access to technical education and changes in social norms to promote green jobs. - Enhanced environmental education, training and public awareness to reduce waste. - Advocacy campaigns promoting ridesharing for daily commutes.
Low participation in environmental-decision making processes. Many people engaging with the environment do not make personal decisions.	- Empowering people to participate in formal and informal decision-making. - Promoting ownership of agricultural land and other assets.

Using GES data for global reporting commitments



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