

Success ,Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Inclusive Climate Resilience in AKF Afghanistan

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Gender Inclusive Climate Change Activities: AKF Afghanistan



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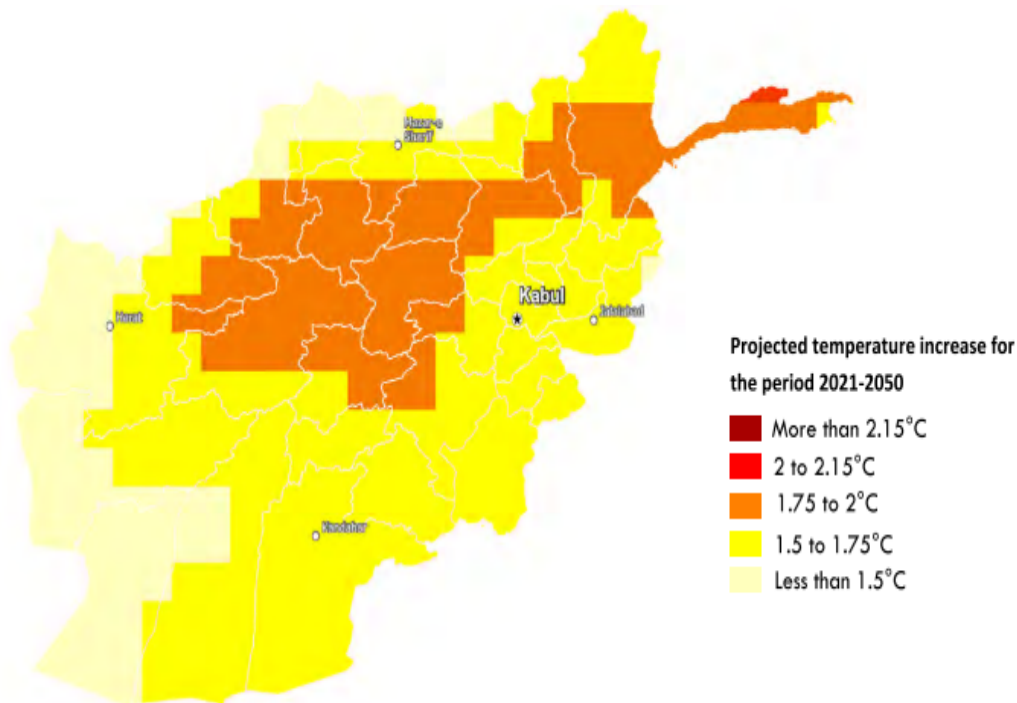
- **Climate Change and Gender Inclusion in Afghanistan-Status Quo**
- **Case Study:
European Commission Funded Climate Change Project**
- **Challenges in achieving gender inclusion**
- **Gender inclusive climate resilience activities & success stories**
- **Opportunities & future outlook for achieving gender responsive climate resilience**

Climate Change in Afghanistan

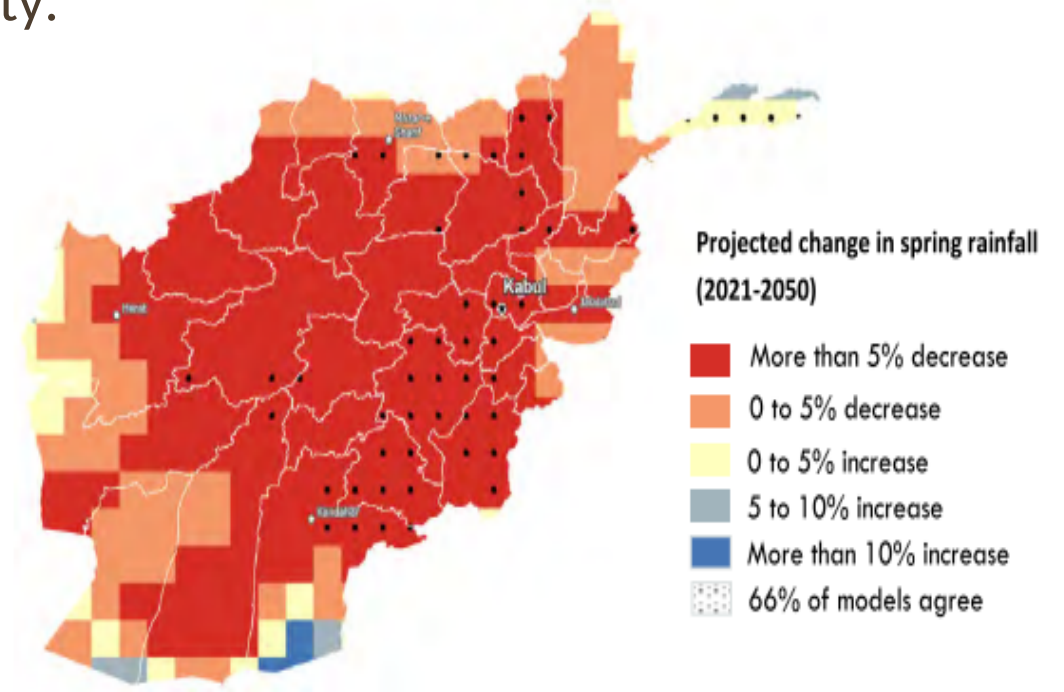


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- Afghanistan is the 17th most vulnerable country to climate change
- Future climate change projections: Reduce suitable habitat of protected plants & animals, increased temp, rainfall variability, drought, floods.
- International Transboundary river basins of Amu Darya, would face severe water scarcity affecting agriculture and food security.



Projected Temperature Increase: 2021-2050



Projected Change in Rainfall: 2021-2050

Women in Afghanistan: Post Taliban Regime EXCLUSION



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- Afghanistan is the only country in the world expressly prohibiting girls from attending secondary education
- 2 million girls aged 10–14 are affected by secondary school closures, as are 1.8 million girls aged 15–19
- Recent restrictions limit Afghan women's access to economic opportunities:
female labour force participation decreased by 16 % between August and October 2021
- Women are among the most severely affected as climate change is affecting many daily tasks that are culturally associated with women's responsibility such as household water supply, collecting resources for heating & cooking, etc.

Source: UN Women & AKF

CHALLENGES

A State In Isolation & Climate Change Agenda



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- AKF is operating in isolation within Afghanistan- State In Fragility – Population at Risk
- Non-existence of financial & political channels for Afghanistan to engage in international climate negotiations.
- Lack of national level engagement with the international level Initiatives: serious gap
- In ability/ limitations to scale up despite strong engagement with the grass root level organizations & institutions of men and women
- AKF has significant data , vulnerability assessments, climate projections, climate modelling at river basic level; yet require funding to continue downscaling the projections to be used at village level.
- Despite the challenges, AKF Afghanistan continues working with communities & women.

Inclusive Climate Resilience Responses: Challenges for Women

Social Restrictions

- Lack of mobility: women cannot travel from one district to another without Mahram
- Women cannot attend government meetings even with a proper Hijab
- Women are disallowed from attending training sessions led by men
- Lack of education & professional skills

Legal Restrictions

- Lack of women ownership on land.
- Lack of women-focused projects.
- Lack of competence and decision-making power

Financial & Economic

- Family restrictions for involvement in economic activities, jobs etc.
- Poor market linkages, product handling and packaging.
- Unexplored and insufficient value chain options for women to get integrated into the small agri businesses

Global Climate Action & Efforts to Address Climate Change in Afghanistan

Sustainable Development Goal 13 Targets: In Action

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries(through

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (online training, keep women engage, offering opportunities to learn)

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.A Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

*Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Source: [UN Sustainable Development](#)

Climate Resilience & Gender Approaches AKF Afghanistan



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Cross Cutting Theme

To facilitate sustainable livelihood improvements for vulnerable groups such as women & girls

What do we do?

Contribute towards social & economic empowerment of women in targeted provinces through different activities in natural resource management (agriculture, forestry, water)/nature-based solution

Approaches

- Women's community organizations undertake dialogues, need assessment, adaptation plans (prioritized needs, based on that activities are planned and undertaken) to help ensure gender-responsive participatory initiatives
- Involving them in income generation/food security activities that also contribute to build climate resilience
- Improving their role in decision-making about livelihood assets.
- Ultimately improving their quality of life, economic and environmental benefits

Nature Base Solutions in 3 Sectors: Water, Forest & Agriculture



- **Water:**
Irrigation channels, water pumps, reservoirs for water harvesting
- **Forestry:**
Nurseries, tree plantation, micro forest
- **Agriculture:**
Crop production, drought resistant varieties
intercropping, leguminous lentils, fodders, vegetable production under green

- Biodiversity conservation
- Address water scarcity & water table problems
- Agri food security
- Water conservation
- Carbon Sequestration
- Improve soil fertility & conservation of biodiversity
- Reduce dependency on land especially for small landholdings
- Address climatic variability, rainfall off season

Women Inclusion: Regional Beneficiaries Distribution

Activities	Badakshan	Baghlan	Bamiyan	Thakhar
Poultry Farming	720	365	221	262
Green Houses	553	9	250	864
Kitchen Gardening	2100	120	1500	459
Fruit & Forest Tree Nurseries	374 297	115 30	2 480	23 250
Training/Awareness Raising through Farmer Field Schools	325	408	667	198
Internships	30	38	38	30

Gender Inclusive Climate Resilience Activities

Success Story: Establishment of Nursery



Establishment of Nursery Razak village in Shahr-e-Bozorg district, Badakhshan Province under EC CC project.



Women farmers during & after nursery intervention

Gender Inclusive Climate Resilience Activities

Success Story: Establishment of Greenhouses

Low-cost greenhouses for off-season vegetable production in Badakhshan, Bamyan, Baghlan & Takhar



Gender Inclusive Climate Resilience Activities

Success Story: Establishment of Lemon Houses

Lemon Houses in Takhar Province, Afghanistan



Gender Inclusive Climate Resilience Activities

Success Story: Capacity Development in Nature Based Solutions

Farmer Field School session for women in Waras district & Bamyan Center



Opportunities & Future Outlook for Achieving Gender Responsive Climate Resilience



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- Increasing donor focus on women-empowerment activities in Afghanistan
- Increase skill development both at organizational level & community level
- Women can attend training sessions led by women
- Women are willing to work with organizations/NGO with proper Hijab & separate offices
- Involving men in supporting women in family for better implementation of activities in the field.
- Funding requirement for Climate Data Generation & institutional hosting within AKDN agency to downscale climate projections for local communities
- Capacity development in Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience for women staff and farmers