

GENDER MAINSTREAMING INTO NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC)

Project title	“Support to Viet Nam for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement” (SIPA)
Country	Viet Nam
Sector	Climate Change
Commissioning party	BMU
AV	Mrs. Anna Pia Schreyögg, Project Chief Technical Advisor
Authors of the entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Anna Pia Schreyögg – Project Chief Technical Advisor • Ms. Pham Thi Hong Net – Country Gender Focal Point • Mrs. Nguyen Anh Minh – Project Gender Focal Point

1. Promoting gender equality (40% of marks)

Which objectives and results has your initiative achieved? Describe the context, the organizational unit, the sector or the situation in your country or region. Tell us which approaches have proven effective, which results have already been generated and which specific impacts you expect in the short, medium and long term.

Objective:

This initiative aims to strengthen the gender aspects of the revised and updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Vietnam to become a gender sensitive climate policy.

Context:

Vietnam is one of the world’s most vulnerable countries being affected by climate change¹, which has been threatening food security, livelihoods and lives of millions of people through the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters. And the international commitments, national policies and actions are instrumental to prevent further greenhouse gas emissions and to deal with the consequences of climate change.

The human impacts of climate change are different because people in communities and societies have different backgrounds, needs, opportunities and capacity to respond with this challenge. In Vietnam, women, compared to men, often have less access to and control over resources and limited voice in decision making process so their vulnerabilities are exacerbated. Yet, these are not relatively taken into consideration in the climate change policy development process.

The biggest international climate negotiation - UN

Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris December, 2015 was a success in many respects. One of the key reasons was the momentum across national governments to develop their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in advance of the COP. INDCs have already become Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as countries ratify the Paris Agreement. And gender equality in climate actions is also recognized in the Preamble of the Paris Agreement and Articles on adaptation action and capacity development. Recently, after COP 24 in Katowice, the Paris Rulebook was adopted shaping the new requirements for climate change policy and reporting system including the NDC. The so-called information to facilitate Clarity, Transparency and Understanding of NDCs (ICTU) will be the guidance to help making NDCs more transparent and understandable to all stakeholders including governments, CSOs, private sector. Among them, the article (i) of provision 4 - (a) (iCTU) stipulated clearly that “Domestic institutional arrangement, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous people, in a gender-responsive manner”.

Viet Nam’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) became the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC1) when Viet Nam ratified the Paris agreement (2015) in November 2016. And the NDC1 has been reviewed and updated into the NDC1 revision since 2017 and it is currently on-going process. The Climate Change and Gender Working Group which includes GIZ, UN Women, UNDP, NGO’s Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)² saw this as a great opportunity for Vietnam to mainstream and advance gender equality, simultaneously to climate actions and the group could provide technical support for this process.

Gender equality is a human right and forms an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and

¹ Vietnam’s National Strategy on Climate Change. Available on website of government of Vietnam <http://www.chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English/strategies/strategiesdetails?categoryId=30&articleId=10051283>

² NGO’s Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) was established in early 2008. It is a forum for Vietnamese NGOs and international NGOs to actively participate in the climate change debate.

its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while climate change also cross cuts all SDGs. Gender integration in NDC contributes to take international commitments adopted by Vietnam, particularly the achievement of SDGs and the Paris Agreement, which includes the submission of its NDC and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) reports. Furthermore, according to UNFCCC, climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts will not be effective and sustainable if gender issues are not taken into account. Both women and men have different knowledge and experiences to deal with climate change so they should be equally recognised and valued in climate policy development process and actions. Meanwhile, gender is not extensively integrated in the NDC1 with a few references to gender aspects and position of women in adaptation section.

Approach:

The key approach is to sensitize the members of NDC task force³ about the importance of gender mainstreaming in NDC with strong evidence and technical support, with the following steps:

- Sharing international experiences: An international expert supported to outline the global framework of gender integration in NDC and other countries' gender responsiveness combining with practical and tangible evidences of gender & climate change issues in Vietnam context.
- Showing the gender gaps: Both international and national experts conducted a gender analysis of Vietnam's first NDC (INDC and NDC1) on its inclusion of gender and social aspects as well as identified the entry points where gender integration would be the most relevant, with suggested text element directly.
- Identifying and disseminating success stories: NGO's success stories of gender mainstreaming in climate change mitigation and adaptation were documented. Particularly, for mitigation, it focused on how gender equality is integrated in rural electrification and renewable energy interventions while empowering women with access to climate information services for the agriculture sector was a good example for climate change adaptation.
- Promoting the collective voice: In cooperation with Vietnam's Women Union⁴, a training workshop on gender in NDC for its members at provincial levels and local NGOs took place. The awareness of participants on gender inclusion into climate policy in general and into NDC in particular was raised. Besides, it facilitated experience-sharing regarding gender integration in climate change. They also had a chance to review the

draft NDC1 revision and proposed recommendations for gender inclusion in this technical report, which were then shared with the NDC task force.

- Developing a policy paper: The gender & climate change working group prepared a policy paper on recommendations on gender mainstreaming in the revised NDC.
- Sharing recommendations at the technical meetings, write shops and other fora: Presented international experiences, local good practices, policy recommendations and suggested text element to NDC task force and relevant decision makers.

Immediate results:

- Political will from policy makers: A representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), who is responsible for the revision of the NDC shared at a conference organized by the Climate Change Working Group of the NGOs, the draft revised NDC emphasizes the link between climate change and gender equality. It recognizes not only the different vulnerabilities faced by women and men but also identifies concrete actions to address gender and social issues. They also confirmed to take the suitable and reasonable gender-related recommendations into the NDC updated reports.
- More participation and involvement of stakeholders: Vietnam Women's Union and NGOs, who have both a strong track record of working on gender equality in climate change, have been capacitated and well-informed about the NDC and its revision process. These organizations can contribute gender inputs not only during the consultation process but also later during the implementation and future interventions.
- Vietnam, a pioneer in mainstreaming gender in NDC: Vietnam is seen as one of pioneers in gender mainstreaming in NDC. The process of gender mainstreaming in NDC revision was documented by cooperation partners for public sharing (see [here](#)) or shared by Vietnam government (MONRE and MOIT) representatives at regional/international workshop (e.g. sharing workshop on gender integration in NDC organized by UN Women regional office for for Asia and the Pacific and NDC Partnership in Philippines from 22-23 November 2019).
- Agreed future cooperation: It was informally agreed with Department of Climate Change (DCC)⁵, MONRE's subordinate agency, that GIZ, UN Women, CCWG

³ NDC task force which is led by MONRE includes line ministries' representatives, development partners and national and international consultants.

⁴ The Vietnam Women's Union (VWU) is a socio-political organization, representing the legal and legitimate rights and interests of Vietnamese women across all levels of society.

⁵ Department of Climate Change (DCC) is Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)'s subordinate agency to support the Minister in state management issues related to climate change (Decision No. 1266 / QĐ-BTNMT, May 2017). The decision lays out 22 tasks and functions related to climate change mitigation, green growth, NAMAs, the implementation of NDC and the Paris Agreement. DCC also acts as the focal point for implementing the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, the Designated National Authority for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), for NAMAs and other international climate treaties and agreements to which Viet Nam is a Party.

would provide technical support for the development of the country Gender Action Plan (GAP) adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Convention (COP23) in Bonn. Besides, DCC actively proposed GIZ to include gender mainstreaming activities in SIPA project's operation plan (e.g. support the development of report on gender and climate change, contributing to Gender Action Plan). Moreover, within the gender working group, some further follow-up actions on gender mainstreaming into climate policy have been identified, including NAP process in Vietnam, ASEAN statement at COP 26, 2020⁶.

2. Gender as a quality feature of our work (20% of marks)

Our gender-differentiated approach and unflinching commitment to equal opportunities for everyone, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, are among the values GIZ upholds as an actor, partner and service provider for sustainable development. Is or has your work in the field of gender been particularly acknowledged?

“Women and men – and people from diverse social groups – may experience the direct and indirect impacts of climate change differently” ... “Women are not only the vulnerable group but also the change agents to mitigate and adapt with climate change” ... “Women’s participation in and benefit from adaptation and mitigation programs is essential to ensure effective and just implementation and delivery of these programs” are ones of key messages jointly developed and delivered by GIZ and cooperation partners (see the policy paper [here](#)).

Gender mainstreaming in NDC is a new topic and only a few countries have done this⁷. The partner of the bilateral GIZ project MONRE – the Vietnamese Ministry for the Environment, at the beginning, was hesitant with this initiative because they did not know how to integrate gender aspects in NDC. Therefore, gender responsiveness in NDC revision report, the active proposal for gender mainstreaming activities and the future cooperation show government partners’ recognition and appreciation of working group’s joint efforts. Most significantly, the key messages regarding gender and NDC have been acknowledged by the NDC Task Force of the Government. Besides, some activities were also highlighted in the media, e.g. MONRE’s website ([Gender mainstreaming in NDC, Further consultation to complete NDC](#)) or [Communist Party of Vietnam online paper](#):

⁶ From 2020, Vietnam will take chairmanship of ASEAN Secretariat, including ASEAN Climate Change Working Group

⁷ According to an analysis by Women Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) in total, 64 of 190 analyzed NDCs include a reference to women or gender and all 64 countries are non-Annex I parties and most commonly in relation to climate change adaptation. Among 64 countries, the most common way that the position/ role of women is identified as a vulnerable group.

3. Gender and result-based monitoring (20% of marks)

Are the contributions to enhancing gender equality and reducing gender-based discrimination and disadvantages documented in the project? Are the results in the area of gender equality an integral part of the monitoring and evaluation system and systematically recorded and/or reflected in an evaluation report? Are the mechanisms for measuring results clearly documented?

Even this initiative is not initially a part of the result-based monitoring of SIPA project⁸ but results will be documented in the report to commissioner. As mentioned above, this joint initiative was driven forward by other cooperation partners (UNDP, UN Women), with recognition of GIZ’s contribution, for sharing at regional and international workshops. This will be also updated in GIZ Viet Nam’s gender factsheet, used as organization’s gender communication material.

4. Cooperation (20% of marks)

Gender equality cannot be achieved by individuals alone. It is a joint task – how did you go about it? Who did you cooperate with: colleagues, partners, donors, civil society representatives, etc.? What united you in all your efforts to enhance gender equality (shared or same goals, strategies, international or other obligations and requirements, etc.)? What were the major challenges you encountered individually or together? What were the three key success factors?

A major achievement of this initiative is the formulation of a working group on gender and climate change in 2018. Members include GIZ, UN Women, UNDP, Climate Change Working Group (incl. CARE, SNV, Oxfam, WWF, Green ID, etc.). These organizations have been working on climate change and sharing the same goal of addressing gender inequality in this area. Following this initiative, the group has recently agreed a joint gender action plan for promoting gender equality in the development and implementation of NDC and NAP in the year 2020, which specifies joint activities of cooperating with government partners such as MONRE, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and with Vietnam Women Union also.

As mentioned above, the Climate Change and Gender Working Group cooperated with Vietnam Women Union to organize a training workshop for its members and NGO representatives and collect their policy recommendations for gender inclusion in NDC. This lays the foundation for

⁸ “Support to Vietnam for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement” (SIPA) Project which is the new and ambitious project funded by BMU through IKI. This project aims at strengthening the framework and national resources to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, with a focus on the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of Vietnam.

future cooperation because Vietnam Women Union plays an important role of facilitating and implementing NDC gender actions at the ground.

Some major challenges emerged during cooperation:

- (i) Different priorities: Cooperation partners prefer promoting gender equality in the areas that they have expertise and working experience. For example, majority have been working on climate change adaptation while a few focuses on mitigation. And balance between mitigation and adaptation was also a debatable topic within the working group before coming to an agreement on how to harmonize the different priorities.
- (ii) Different management system: Apart from sharing technical expertise, some cooperation partners also made financial contribution for hiring consultants and organizing training/sharing workshops. Due to different financial management system, more money can be allocated to some activities while others have less. Time pressure for spending was also hectic as anyone wanted to spend their money first.
- (iii) Individual commitment: Cooperation partners often nominated one staff to participate in working group's activities. Due to the workload, many of them could not allocate sufficient time and expertise for regular activities (e.g. jointly prepare the TOR for consultants, inputs and comments on consultants' products etc.). They just appeared at important events when needed.

And three success factors:

- (i) Mutual appreciation of respective individual cooperation partner's strengths: It was an important element to enhance the cooperation. For instance, CCWG can bring the voice of local people to the high-level discussion while Vietnam Women Union has an official channel to connect with decision makers. Meanwhile, UN Women has strong experiences of promoting gender equality and women's rights



A representative from MONRE shared the process of NDC revision at a gender training for Women Union and NGO representatives

Photo Credit: Nguyen Anh Minh/ GIZ Vietnam

at global, regional and national level while GIZ has strong expertise in NDC development. More importantly, cooperation with MONRE who takes lead in the NDC review and update in Vietnam ensures the effective gender mainstreaming into Vietnam's NDC.

- (ii) Clarification of roles and responsibilities: Roles and responsibilities were clarified and agreed based on the strengthen of each cooperating partner. For instance, as supporting the whole process of NDC development, GIZ was responsible for finding the entry points of meeting with NDC task force. UN Women took responsibility of coordinating with the international and national gender experts while CCWG and Vietnam Women Union were in charge for facilitating the participation of NGOs and local Women Union. TORs and workshop agenda were jointly developed and agreed among cooperating partners who then together provided technical inputs for consultants' work. And financial contribution was allocated according to budget availability. For example, UN Women and CCWG paid for consultancy fees while GIZ covered costs for organizing technical workshops.
- (iii) Orientation toward joint strengths: It was agreed that gender mainstreaming in NDC was a new topic that no cooperation partner had extensive expertise and working experience. It was a learning by doing process for all cooperation partners. And the support from international expert was just a stepping stone for members to learn together so that climate change and gender working group is able to jointly provide technical support for gender mainstreaming in the development and implementation of NDC and NAP. MONRE also realized that they themselves did not have enough gender expertise and they were open and willing to learn through cooperation with Climate Change and Gender Working Group toward a gender sensitive NDC.



International presented gender inputs for the draft revised NDC at a write shop

Photo Credit: Nguyen Anh Minh/ GIZ Vietnam