UN-Women’s Operational Response at the Regional Level: Asia and the Pacific

Executive Board
Annual Session
Date: 18-20 June 2024

Presented by: Christine Arab, Regional Director Designate, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Context

Complex Operating Environment

- Post-COVID19 economic downturns, reduction/redirection of development financing

- Increased frequency & intensity of climate-related events & disasters: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Tonga, Vanuatu.

- Complex emergencies & contexts impacting the geopolitical landscape & economic recovery: Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar.

- Shifting political landscapes: Elections in program countries Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands

Situation of Women & Girls

- Representation of women in leadership, politics & decision-making among the lowest in the world

- Female labor force participation rates (FLFS) declined by approx. 10% between 1990 & 2021, stands at 48.5% (MLFS- 83.4%).

- 52.64% of inactive women of working age cited unpaid care responsibilities as one of the main reasons for staying out of the labor force.

- Higher prevalence than the global average (27%) of Intimate Partner Violence, with sub regional variations.
### Key Areas of Work Across the Region

#### Gender and Climate
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Climate Change Gender Action Plans (CCGAPs)**
- Women's visibility and leadership
- Women's access to finance for climate-resilient activities
- Production and use of gender statistics
- Enhancing coordination through IBCs: Climate Action, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network

Countries include: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam

#### Ending VAWG
- National Action Plans on Ending VAW
- Access to protection, services, education and economic opportunities.
- **Safe and fair migration**
- Social Norm Change
- Enhancing coordination through the UNITE Working Group.

Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam

#### Inclusive Governance and WPS
- National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security
- Women's Political Participation
- Gender-Responsive Institutional Reform
- Enhancing coordination through the UN Coordination Group on WPS.

Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, PNG, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Solomon Islands Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

#### Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Gender Mainstreaming Policy Frameworks on DRR
- **Resilience of Lives and Livelihoods**
- Meeting the needs of women and girls in humanitarian/crisis contexts.
- Enhancing coordination through GiHA Working Group and IBC on Resilience.

Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji and Pacific, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines

#### Women’s Economic Empowerment
- Law and Policy Change
- The Decent Work Agenda
- Skills and Income Training
- Facilitating Market Access
- Private Sector Collaboration
- Care agenda and gender statistics
- Enhancing coordination through IBC on Inclusive Economic Recovery.

Countries include: Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, PNG, Viet Nam
Key results in 2022-2024

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<th>Gender and Climate</th>
<th>Ending VAWG</th>
<th>Inclusive Governance and WPS</th>
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<td>• Conducted 2 national surveys on gender-environment (Tonga and Samoa)</td>
<td>• Enhanced national and regional institutional capabilities on VAW: 21,953 key stakeholders equipped &amp; providing services to VAW survivors.</td>
<td>• Supported WPS Agenda Localisation: In 6 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste).</td>
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<td>• Explored connections between VAW and Disasters.</td>
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<td>• Facilitated increased commitment to women’s leadership and political participation: AIPA General Assembly 44 Resolution on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience through Women’s Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments</td>
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<td>• Advanced the decent work agenda: policies, standards &amp; practices.</td>
<td>• Strengthened UN coordination in humanitarian/crisis contexts: expanded to Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines</td>
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<td>• Advanced private sector engagement in WEE: 2,406 total WEPs signatories/ impacting 5.2 million employees</td>
<td>• Regional UN coordination group on WPS</td>
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<td>• Improved women’s skills, income opportunities and market access</td>
<td>• Enhanced programming results across thematic areas through joint work/programmes with other UN agencies.</td>
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<td>• Advanced GEWE in intergovernmental normative processes: CSW, BPfA.</td>
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Strategic priorities in 2024-2025

**NORMATIVE**
- **Beijing+30 review and CSW 69**: Support Member State engagement and strengthen accountabilities
- **SDGs**: Six Transitions

**COORDINATION**
- **Leveraging** Asia-Pacific Regional Collaborative Platform – and co-leadership of Issue-Based Coalition on Promoting Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, UN Coordination Group on WPS, IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.
- **Supporting implementation of UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan**
- Support UNCTs on CCA/UNSDCF on mainstreaming Human Rights Based Approaches, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment principles
- Engagement with regional platforms/inter-governmental bodies for enhanced collaboration and coordination (ASEAN)

**PROGRAMMATIC**
- **Prevention Hub** to advance social norms change and protocols for systematically handling cases of gender-based violence
- **Building national statistical capacities to generate data** on gender-environment, Unpaid care and domestic work, and data usage
- **Livelihood/economic security/care** across humanitarian, peace, development nexus
- Advance corporate Economic Empowerment Strategy, contextualized
- **Inclusive Governance and WPS** including stock-taking during 25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (2025)
Thank you