



INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO THE GENDER POLICY DOCUMENTS

BRIEFING PAPER



KEY ISSUES

- Climate change affects men and women differently and has a strong gender dimension due to gender roles in family and society.
- Gender increases vulnerability to negative impacts of climate change and reduces adaptive capacity and climate change mitigation capacity.
- Gender and Climate Change Policies are very well designed and structured, but so far they did not intersect at all (climate policies are gender blind, and gender policies do not take into consideration climate change nor environment in general).
- There is evident lack of sex-disaggregated data which can generate findings for nuanced climate policies.
- Intersecting climate change and gender will contribute to the development of sustainable and more efficient policies.
- Mainstreaming climate change in the upcoming Law on Equal Opportunities is important since it provides an impulse and a legal framework both for central and local institutions to consider gender inequality and when creating policies and decisions.

LEGAL & STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

[Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men \(2014\)](#)

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

[Draft Action Plan for Gender Equality and Adaptation / Mitigation to climate change - excerpt from the First Biennial Update Report on Climate Change](#)

[Draft Action Plan for Integrating Gender Aspects Responsiveness in the Preparation of the 4th National Communication/ 3rd Biennial Update Report \(2019\)](#)

[Strategy for Introducing Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Republic of Macedonia \(2012-2017\)](#)

[Third Biennial Update Report on Climate Change of the Republic of North Macedonia \(2020\)](#)

[Gender Equality Strategy \(2013-2020\)](#)

[National Equality and Non-Discrimination Strategy \(2016-2020\)](#)

[National Strategy on Alleviation of Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Republic of Macedonia 2010-2020](#)

[Action plan for gender equality \(2018-2020\)](#)

For more information regarding the country's legal, strategic and institutional framework for climate change at the national level, international agreements that the country has adopted, as well as the integration of climate change in sectoral policies and national reporting, please refer to the **General Booklet** and/or visit the [link](#).



OVERVIEW

Integrating Climate Change into the Gender Policies, and vice versa, will increase transparency and effectiveness, as well as improve sustainability of climate policy and actions as acknowledged in the Preamble of the [Paris Agreement](#) (2016) followed by the [Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender \(LWPG\)](#) and UNFCCC's [Gender Action Plan](#). Republic of North Macedonia has taken serious steps towards intersecting gender and climate change at policy and administrative level and has been recognized as a positive example and a good practice in the region.

Within the UNDP/GEF supported projects¹, a systematic approach was undertaken for mainstreaming gender perspective into Macedonian reports to UNFCCC, starting by providing guidance's, methods, indicators and recommendations within the study: ["Gender and Climate Change in Macedonia Applying a Gender Lens to the Third National Communication on Climate Change"](#) (Huyer, Sophia) followed by development of the [Draft Action Plan for Gender Equality and Adaptation / Mitigation to Climate Change - Excerpt from the First Biennial Update on Climate Change](#) and [Draft Action Plan for Integrating Gender Aspects Responsiveness in the Preparation of the 4th National Communication/ 3rd Biennial Update Report \(2019\)](#).

Innovative approaches for data collection, analyses and [visualization](#) of the results related to households [heating practices](#) in Skopje, have provided a comprehensive pool of sex- disaggregated data. Complemented with [socio-economics analysis](#) that pinpointed [the most vulnerable groups](#), it resulted in the first HOW TO guidance for [transforming governmental policies](#) using gender sensitive climate data.

[Intersections of gender and climate change policies analysis](#) provides step by step guidance's to developing gender responsive climate policies and climate resilient gender policies (weaknesses, recommendations for improvement, proposed body to monitor and support implementation of planned activities).

For the first time in the country, administrative personnel (on local and central level) have received trainings on Gender and Climate Change based upon the developed [Training Manual - Gender and Climate Change](#), as well as on a set of [Recommendations for Strengthening the Implementation of the Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change](#) which were presented to the key stakeholders and [the members of Parliament](#).

These most recent efforts demonstrate a viable environment when it comes to institutional commitment towards improving the intersectionality of the policies, especially when it comes to upcoming legislative acts in the upcoming period. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy actively participates in and supports all these activities in order to introduce a systematic approach for improving the implementation of the Draft Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change. The new **Gender Equality Strategy** has been identified as the most appropriate entry point, by introducing new **Strategic Area on Gender and Climate Change**, as well as the introduction of a permanent Sub-group on Gender and Climate Change within the Inter- Departmental Group on Gender Equality as a body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy activities.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is preparing a Strategy and a Law on Climate Action, where gender aspect will be also incorporated. Through the UNDP supported efforts these parallel processes shall be implemented with an intersectional approach, meaning that the first one will mainstream and accommodate the climate change impact aspects, while the latter will consider and thus accommodate the gender perspective in climate change. Both of them will serve as a basis for developing an Action plan and a Strategy for implementation of these documents.

KEY MESSAGES/ RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNTRY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (HOUSEHOLDS HEATING, TRANSPORT, AGRICULTURE AND ICT (INFORMATION AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES) SHOW THAT EFFICIENCY OF CLIMATE ACTIONS CAN BE IMPROVED WITH GENDER DATA

CROSS SECTORAL APPROACH IS ESSENTIAL FOR ENSURING THAT POLICIES ARE NO LONGER GENDER- BLIND AND GENDER EQUALITY POLICIES ARE CLIMATE RESILIENT

DEFINING GENDER ROLES IN CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED SECTORS IS A PRECONDITION FOR DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT POLICIES FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

ENSURE PARTICIPATION OF THE CENTRAL GENDER MACHINERY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS TO UNFCCC AND IN THE CENTRAL /NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE BODIES

THE INCUMBENT GENDER MACHINERY NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONAL IMPULSE WHICH WILL LEAD TO STRATEGIC REDUCTION OF GENDER INEQUALITIES

EMERGENCY MEASURES IN THE PANDEMIC NEED TO HAVE A MORE NUANCED APPROACH AND EXPLICITLY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF WOMEN



¹"Macedonia's Fourth National Communication and Third Biennial Update Report on Climate Change" and "Strengthening Institutional and Technical Macedonian Capacities to Enhance Transparency in the Framework of the Paris Agreement" (CBIT project)

The document was prepared in the framework of the project “Strengthening Institutional and Technical Macedonian Capacities to Enhance Transparency in the Framework of the Paris Agreement” implemented with financial and technical support from GEF and UNDP.
