



# Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) 2022

## ADB Gender Equality Thematic Group: Cooling solutions for a more Equitable Future

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Heatwaves have intensified in cities as a result of rising global temperature, air pollution, urbanization and the impact of existing infrastructure on human settlements. The **economically and socially marginalized urban residents living in informal settlements are most impacted** by the rising heat.
- Whether in cities or in rural areas, poor communities suffer the most from a lack of access to sustainable cooling. By 2030, **20.9% of the world's women and girls living in extreme poverty will live in Central and Southern Asia**.
- As most things, the climate crisis is not “gender neutral”. **Women and girls experience the greatest impacts**, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. Extreme heat is one of these climate risks.



### DEEP DIVE WORKSHOP

#### Cooling Solutions for a More Equitable Future



- **Women are more likely to live in poverty than men**, have less access to basic human rights like the ability to freely move and acquire land, and face systematic violence that escalates during periods of instability, including during heatwaves.
- In informal settlements and poorer communities in Asia, **women are responsible for household chores that must be carried out regardless of the weather**. This exacerbates exposure to high heat during scorching weather and makes them more vulnerable to related health risks.
- In combination with these factors, **lack of access to important tools for heat awareness and protection** limits many women's adaptive capacity to extreme heat. Poor women also **lack representation in most formal decision-making structures**, meaning that their interests are often not adequately considered.

Friday, 17 June 2022  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm UTC+8  
Online



# KEY TAKEAWAYS



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- We need to **take comprehensive approaches** to achieve thermal comfort and do so with a gender lens on. The link between gender and cooling needs to be further strengthened with targeted research and awareness. This will help design appropriate strategies.
- But **women are not helpless victims**. Their **participation and leadership can have transformative effects in their countries** and communities. They are critical to carrying out the Plan's strategies to reduce the negative health impacts of heat and delivering sustainable cooling solutions.
- From maintaining nature in cities, to the development of packhouses and cold chain technologies that can best serve their needs and priorities, **solutions for women should be led by women**. We need to **expand direct engagement and support women-led approaches to cooling** to ensure that our climate responses reverse inequalities and deliver a just transition and help build truly resilient societies.
- Mainstreaming gender in interventions to fight extreme heat is therefore key to deliver **social and climate justice**. We need to do more to ensure that efforts in the transition to efficient, climate-friendly cooling consider and tackle gender inequalities.
- **We have sustainable and inclusive solutions to deliver sustainable cooling to vulnerable communities**. They include integrating heat resilience into urban planning, rejuvenating, improving and increasing green and blue spaces in our cities, resurfacing our cities with heat-resistant materials, making our buildings more energy efficient, replacing old ACs with more climate-friendly ones.
- Women are often the 'glue' of their communities, are key agents of engagement and change for climate adaptation efforts. Along with targeting women for outreach and education, **future research and interventions should also incorporate the concerns and insights of women**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ACCESS THE RECORDING, PLEASE VISIT THE [COOL COALITION WEBSITE](#)

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