



CLIMATE  
INSIGHTS

# WOMEN

## AS CHANGE AGENTS IN THE CLIMATE FIGHT





Women are **disproportionately impacted** by the effects of climate change, but when empowered, they are inordinately successful at transforming and bringing effective change to their households, communities and societies.

Sources:

World Economic Forum: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/07/gender-equality-and-climate-change-have-more-in-common-than-you-think/>

UNDP: <https://www.undp.org/eurasia/stories/sustainable-future-comes-women-changemakers>





Some recent studies show that women can be more **effective leaders at the grassroots level**; when given the same access to resources as men, women farmers can increase agricultural yields by 20% to 30%; and gender equality is positively correlated with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Sources:

World Economic Forum: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2021/11/why-female-leadership-is-crucial-to-tackle-climate-change/>

FAO: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/be7de9bb-f9dc-4afb-ade9-51ff274064a2/content>

World Economic Forum: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/07/gender-equality-and-climate-change-have-more-in-common-than-you-think/>

## IMPACT OF WOMEN AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL



INCREASE  
AGRICULTURAL  
YIELDS



IMPACT  
GENDER  
EQUALITY



LOWER  
GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS



In India, about 80% of rural women are employed in agriculture, making them especially vulnerable to the immediate and devastating impacts of climate change.

**Women-centric policies** can unleash positive changes across all aspects of a women's life – from energy access to better health, from resource governance to community resilience – and empower them to take a leadership role in driving climate action at the grassroots level.

Sources:

Niti Aayog: <https://www.niti.gov.in/rural-women-key-new-indias-agrarian-revolution>

United Nations: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2022/07/climate-change-exacerbates-violence-against-women-and-girls>





**India's clean energy transition** also offers a unique opportunity to center women in the renewable energy transformation and build their resilience to climate change. With **3.4 million direct jobs (short and long term) to be created in clean energy sector by 2030**, there is a big opportunity to employ women across a variety of skills and non-technical roles.



However, the **workforce deficit and skill gaps** in the clean energy sector remain barriers to the wider adoption of these new technologies in rural parts of the country...

...leaving the window open to **skilling and empowering women** to take greater ownership of the clean energy and climate-friendly technologies in rural India.

Source: India's Expanding Clean Energy Workforce Report. NRDC. <https://www.nrdcindia.org/pdf/NRDC-Jobs%20report-Feb-2023.pdf>



At the November 2024 meeting of the **UNFCCC in Azerbaijan (COP29)**, countries renewed their commitments to gender-responsive climate policy and action under the **Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender...**

...though there are still no clear goals on gender-responsive climate finance under the recently announced New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance.

Source: UN Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2024/11/cop29-decisions-deliver-gains-for-gender-equality-in-climate-action-but-more-remains-to-be-done>





All budget allocations in India go through a gender screen, and there is a growing focus on the potential role of women as changemakers in the renewable energy sector. As India makes progress on its clean energy transition, women are increasingly being seen in leadership positions across business, industry, science, and policy.

Source: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, <https://mnre.gov.in/empowering-women-in-renewable-energy/>

India started building elements of **gender-responsive budgeting** into its annual budget allocation process in 1997-98. Many states soon followed suit by setting up structures and mechanisms for gender budgeting as early as 2004-05. This year's Union Budget carries an allocation of more than **INR 3 trillion** for schemes benefitting women and girls.

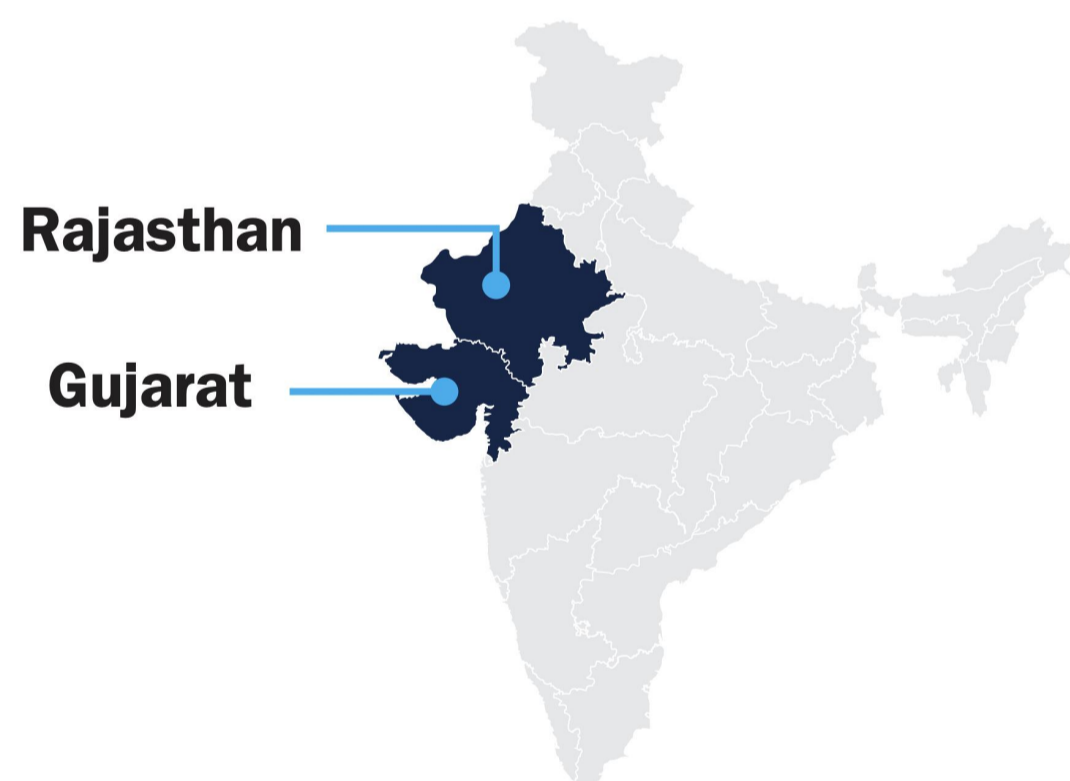
Sources: [https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/Research\\_notes/English/Gender\\_budgeting\\_Eng.pdf](https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/Research_notes/English/Gender_budgeting_Eng.pdf)  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2035618#:~:text=The%20Finance%20Minister%20informed%20that,4.9%20per%20cent%20of%20GDP.>





**Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** and our partner **Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** are implementing a unique initiative, called Hariyali Gram (Green Villages), to enhance accessibility and affordability of clean energy and climate friendly solutions to improve livelihood opportunities at the household level in rural India.

## HARIYALI GREEN VILLAGES



NRDC & SEWA selected several clean energy technologies to implement in villages in Gujarat and Rajasthan



To read more about how NRDC is working with women at the grassroots level who are transforming their communities and acting as change agents in the fight against climate change, [click here](#)

