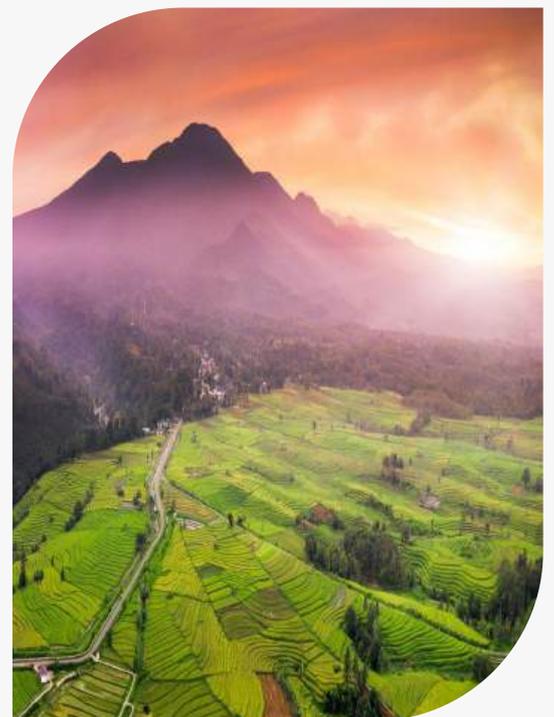




# Building Resilient Futures:

*The Intersection of Gender and Climate Action*



# TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>3</b>	Foreword
<b>4</b>	Key Messages
<b>7</b>	Introduction: Linking Climate Change and Gender Inequality
<b>10</b>	Asia's Climate Change and Gender Dynamics
<b>12</b>	Regional Analysis: Gender and Climate Challenges Across Asia
<b>16</b>	Financing Gender-Climate Solutions across APAC
<b>19</b>	Opportunities and Recommendations for funders across the continuum of capital
<b>26</b>	AVPN's Role and Theory of Change
<b>28</b>	Acknowledgements

# Foreword

Climate change and gender inequality are two of the most pressing challenges of our time, and their intersection presents both critical risks and opportunities. In Asia, the impacts of climate change exacerbate existing social, economic, and environmental disparities, disproportionately affecting women—particularly those in rural and marginalized communities. Their reliance on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and natural resource management, coupled with restricted access to finance, technology, and decision-making power, limits their ability to adapt. Yet, despite these challenges, women play a crucial role in fostering climate resilience and driving sustainable development when given the necessary support.

As part of AVPN’s commitment to advancing gender-responsive climate action, the ‘Building Resilient Futures: The Intersection of Gender and Climate Action’ report begins with a comprehensive assessment of gender and climate trends in the APAC region. This inception phase involves in-depth research and data analysis to understand the gendered impacts of climate change across key sectors, including in agriculture, the blue economy, healthcare, and renewable energy. By mapping critical demographic and economic indicators, this research provides essential insights to help AVPN and its partners prioritise high-impact areas for investment and action.

Through this work, we aim to bridge knowledge gaps, inform policy and investment strategies, and ultimately drive inclusive and effective climate solutions that empower women and strengthen community resilience. We hope that AVPN members and the broader ecosystem of stakeholders find this report valuable in identifying opportunities to mobilise capital across the continuum—from philanthropy to blended finance and impact investing. Addressing these complex challenges requires leveraging diverse forms of capital in a coordinated way, ensuring that catalytic funding unlocks further investment and drives sustainable impact. To progress towards gender and climate goals, it is essential to align philanthropic, public, and private capital toward shared goals. We invite you to join us in building a dynamic and inclusive social investment ecosystem that drives lasting change.

Regards,

Aravindan Srinivasan, Executive Director, Climate Action Platform

Dr. Seema Bhatia-Panthaki, Director, Gender Equality Platform

## KEY MESSAGES



The United Nations estimates that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women.<sup>1</sup>



In Pakistan, the 2022 floods left nearly 650,000 pregnant women without access to adequate healthcare, forcing many to give birth in unsafe conditions.<sup>2</sup>



In Indonesia, women account for 29% of deaths associated with unsafe water sources, compared to 25% for men.<sup>3</sup>



In the Asia-Pacific region, 58% of women engaged in the economy work in the agriculture sector.<sup>4</sup> Climate-induced disruptions in agriculture disproportionately affect these women, who often lack land tenure and access to financial resources to manage these risks.



Natural disasters disrupt social structures, leading to increased instances of gender-based violence. Women and children are at higher risk of abuse during and after such events.

<sup>1</sup> [UNICEF, 2023, Climate Change's greatest victim are women and girls](#) <sup>2</sup>

[Humanrightswatch, 2022, Flood affected women in pakistan need urgent help](#) <sup>3</sup>

[UNwomen, 2024, ASEAN Gender Outlook 2024](#) <sup>4</sup> [ESCAP, Gender, the Environment](#)

## KEY MESSAGES

### **The Intersection of Climate Change and Gender Inequality**

- Climate change disproportionately affects women, especially in rural and marginalised communities, due to their reliance on climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture and water management.
- Systemic barriers, including limited financial access, restricted land rights, and underrepresentation in decision-making, hinder women's ability to adapt and contribute to climate resilience.
- Women's participation in climate action leads to improved resource governance, conservation outcomes, and disaster preparedness.

### **The need of financing through a climate-gender nexus**

Asia is at the crossroads of two significant challenges: climate vulnerability and gender inequality. Together, these issues create a feedback loop: Addressing this gap through a climate-gender nexus offers a pathway to tackle both issues simultaneously, creating more inclusive and sustainable solutions to the region's challenges. To catalyse and support these solutions, significant financing is required through both innovative and traditional financial instruments.

## KEY MESSAGES

### **Gender-Responsive Climate Finance: A Catalyst for Systemic Change**

- Integrating gender considerations into climate finance unlocks economic and social benefits, enhancing resilience and equality.
- Innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, impact investing, and sustainability bonds, can mobilise capital for gender-climate initiatives.
- Philanthropic funding plays a critical role in de-risking investments and supporting early-stage solutions for women-led climate initiatives.



I.

## Introduction:

### Linking Climate Change and Gender Inequality

Climate change and gender inequality are intrinsically linked, creating a complex and often reinforcing cycle of vulnerability. Women in Asia, particularly in rural and marginalised communities, face disproportionate impacts from climate change due to their reliance on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and water management. This dependence often leaves them at greater risk during extreme weather events, droughts, and other climate-induced crises. Simultaneously, systemic inequalities, including limited access to financial resources, education, and decision-making platforms, hinder their ability to adapt and contribute to climate resilience.



Despite these challenges, women are key agents of change in advancing climate solutions. Evidence shows that empowering women in climate initiatives enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of these efforts. A growing body of evidence shows that women’s participation and leadership in climate action is associated with better resource governance, conservation outcomes, and disaster readiness.



For instance, in **Bangladesh and India**, women-led cooperatives have implemented climate-smart agriculture techniques, increasing food security while reducing carbon footprints.



In **Indonesia and the Philippines**, women are leading mangrove restoration efforts, protecting coastal communities from storm surges and biodiversity loss.



In the private sector, increasing gender diversity in leadership correlates with stronger climate-friendly policies—for instance, a 1% increase in female firm managers results in a 0.5% decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.<sup>5</sup>

**Yet, women remain underrepresented in climate governance. At COP 29, only 8 out of the 78 world leaders participating were women**

Asia’s dual challenge of high climate vulnerability and persistent gender inequality calls for integrated solutions that address both issues simultaneously. By embedding gender considerations into climate action, stakeholders can unlock significant co-benefits, including enhanced resilience, economic growth, and social equality. However, achieving this requires deliberate efforts to overcome systemic barriers, foster inclusive policies, and mobilise innovative financing mechanisms.

<sup>5</sup>. Altunbas Y, L Gambacorta, A Reghezza, G Velliscig (2022), “Does gender diversity in the workplace mitigate climate change?”, CEPR Discussion Paper 17159 (published also as BIS Working Paper 977 and ECB Working Paper 2650).

<sup>6</sup>. [Care International.2024.COP 29: Only 8 out of 78 world leaders attending are women](#)

**This report outlines a comprehensive framework to address these interconnected challenges.**



It highlights the potential of gender-responsive climate finance to drive systemic change, emphasising the need for localised strategies tailored to the unique challenges of different regions in Asia.



By leveraging tools such as blended finance, impact investing, and sustainability bonds, and fostering collaboration between public and private sectors, Asia can lead the way in creating equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change.



Through regional analyses, actionable recommendations, and illustrative case studies, this document aims to provide a roadmap for scaling gender-climate initiatives that deliver measurable impacts.

## II. Background:

### Asia's Climate Change and Gender Dynamics

#### 2.1 Climate Challenges

Asia faces some of the world's most severe climate challenges. Rising temperatures, erratic precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events threaten the livelihoods of millions across the region. Coastal nations like Bangladesh and the Philippines endure more frequent flooding and stronger typhoons, while landlocked countries may face prolonged droughts and desertification. The Hindu Kush Himalayan region, often referred to as the "third pole," experiences accelerated glacial melting, which jeopardises water security for over a billion people downstream. These phenomena disproportionately affect communities dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries, which are critical for regional economies.



## 2.2 Gender Inequality and Climate impact

Women are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to entrenched gender inequalities. Across Asia, women shoulder the primary responsibility for managing household resources like water, fuel, and food, tasks that become increasingly arduous as environmental conditions worsen. Structural barriers, including restricted access to land, financial services, and decision-making forums, limit women's opportunities and ability to adapt to and mitigate climate risks. For instance, in South Asia, women's labour force participation is among the lowest globally, and societal norms often confine them to unpaid or informal roles. Without targeted interventions, these inequalities exacerbate the vulnerabilities of women and girls while hindering their potential to contribute to climate resilience.

**“ The question isn't bringing women into climate action; they are already leading it. What is needed is prioritising asset ownership, especially in land rights. This empowers women with real voice and control ”**

*Dr. Seema Bhatia-Panthaki, AVPN*

## 2.3 Co-benefits of Gender-Climate Solutions

Despite their vulnerabilities, women possess unique knowledge and skills that can enhance climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Empowering women through education, financial inclusion, jobs and leadership opportunities has been shown to improve outcomes in climate governance and natural resource management. Studies reveal that organisations with greater gender diversity in leadership achieve more sustainable environmental outcomes. However, realising these benefits requires deliberate efforts to integrate gender considerations into climate policies and investments, ensuring that women's voices are not only heard but also prioritised in decision-making processes.

# III.

## Regional Analysis:

### Gender and Climate Challenges across Asia

AVPN's study focused on 11 countries based on some of AVPN's priority markets. This selection was strategically non-comprehensive, as the **goal was to provide actionable insights rather than an exhaustive regional analysis.** By focusing on regions (South Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia) with the highest potential for gender-inclusive climate finance, the study ensured that the findings would be practical and relevant, offering targeted recommendations for our partners.



As indicated in the map below, AVPN’s research identified a clear regional trend in the interplay between climate vulnerability, gender inequality, and climate readiness across Asian countries. Details of the index can be found in section VIII of this report

## SOUTH ASIA

### Low Climate Readiness & High Climate

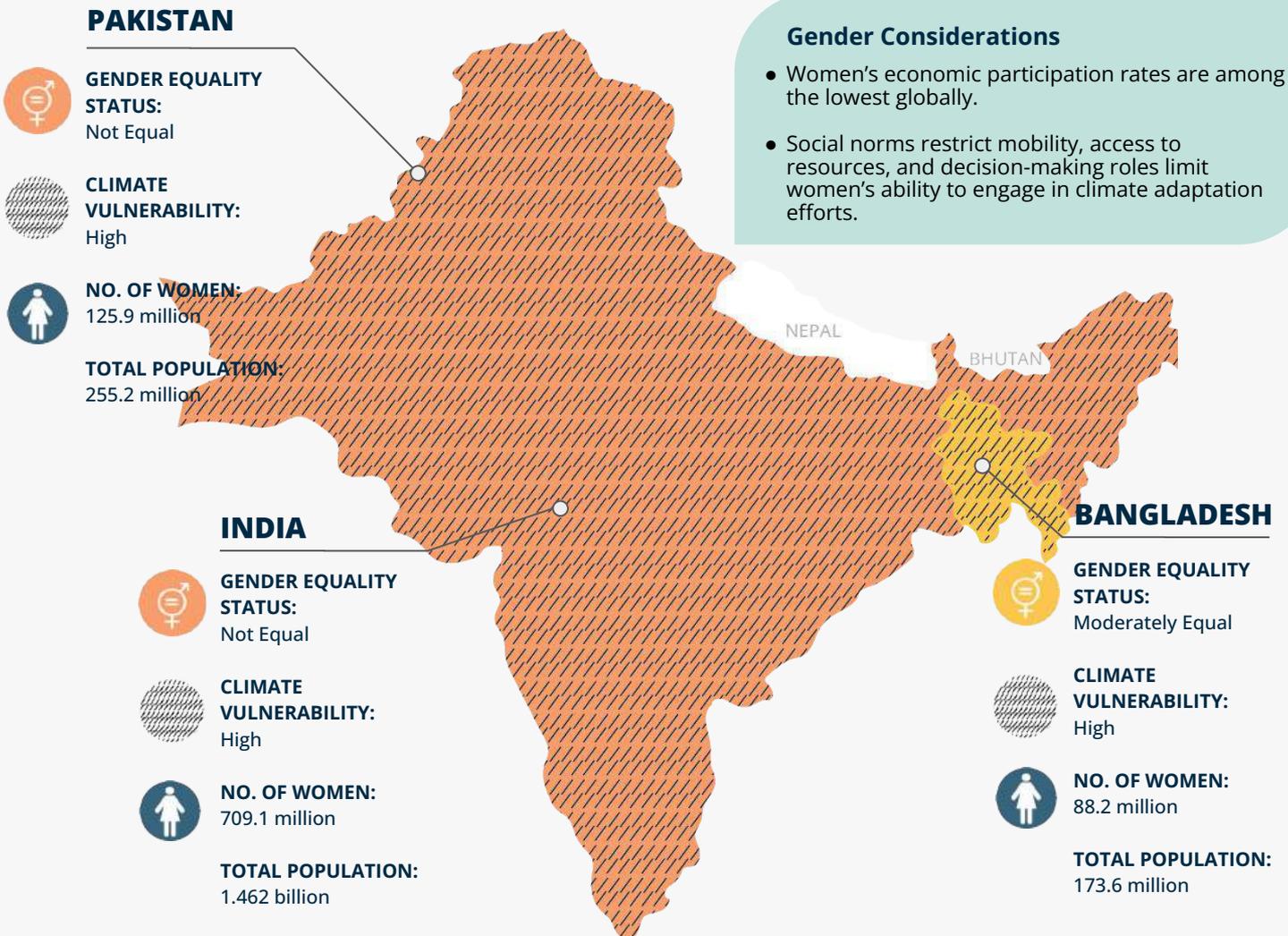
**Vulnerability:** Countries in this archetype face extreme climate risks, significant gender inequality, and a lack of institutional and financial capacity.

### Climate Challenges

- Rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, glacial melt, and extreme weather events (cyclones, floods).
- Water scarcity, air pollution, and declining agricultural productivity threaten livelihoods.
- Coastal communities face sea level rise, and heat stress disproportionately affects women in informal labor sectors

### Gender Considerations

- Women’s economic participation rates are among the lowest globally.
- Social norms restrict mobility, access to resources, and decision-making roles limit women’s ability to engage in climate adaptation efforts.



TREND	BANGLADESH	INDIA	PAKISTAN
<b>CLIMATE READINESS</b>	NOT READY	MODERATELY READY	NOT READY
<b>URGENCY FOR CLIMATE - GENDER NEXUS</b>	URGENT	URGENT	URGENT
<b>GENDER EQUALITY STATUS</b>	 Not Equal    Moderate    Equal		
<b>CLIMATE VULNERABILITY</b>	 High-Moderate    Moderate    High		

# SOUTHEAST ASIA

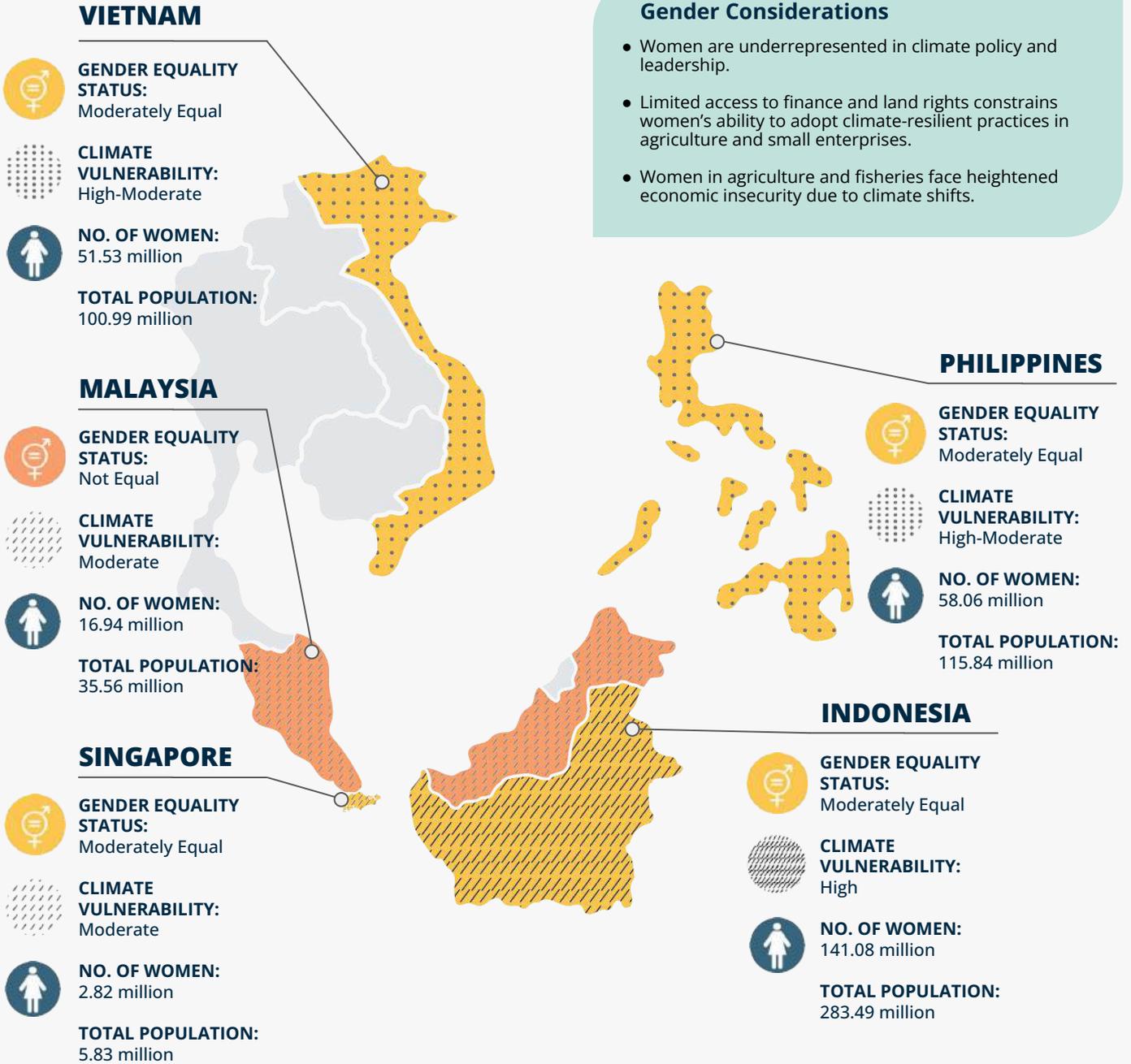
**High Climate Readiness & Moderate Gender Inequality:** Countries with strong climate resilience and institutional capacity benefit from impact investing and venture capital to scale gender-responsive, market-driven solutions.

## Climate Challenges

- Rising sea levels threaten coastal cities.
- Typhoons, floods, and droughts disrupt livelihoods.
- Deforestation and biodiversity loss increase vulnerabilities.
- Air and water pollution impact public health.

## Gender Considerations

- Women are underrepresented in climate policy and leadership.
- Limited access to finance and land rights constrains women's ability to adopt climate-resilient practices in agriculture and small enterprises.
- Women in agriculture and fisheries face heightened economic insecurity due to climate shifts.



TREND	VIETNAM	MALAYSIA	SINGAPORE	PHILIPPINES	INDONESIA
CLIMATE READINESS	MODERATELY READY	MODERATELY READY	READY	MODERATELY READY	MODERATELY READY
URGENCY FOR CLIMATE - GENDER NEXUS	MODERATELY URGENT	MODERATELY URGENT	LIMITED URGENCY	MODERATELY URGENT	MODERATELY URGENT
GENDER EQUALITY STATUS					
CLIMATE VULNERABILITY					

# NORTHEAST ASIA

## High Climate Readiness & Low Gender Gap:

Countries in this group have strong climate resilience and relatively high gender equality. However, gaps often exist in women's representation in leadership and high-growth sectors.

### Climate Challenges

- Rising temperatures, air pollution, and coastal erosion.
- Extreme weather events like typhoons pose risks.
- Heavy reliance on fossil fuels and industrial emissions exacerbates climate threats.

### Gender Considerations

- Despite high economic readiness, gender inclusion remains limited.
- Cultural and structural barriers restrict women's leadership in climate tech and policymaking.
- Women's limited representation in STEM and green finance hinders inclusive climate innovation.

## MAINLAND CHINA



**GENDER EQUALITY STATUS:**  
Moderately Equal

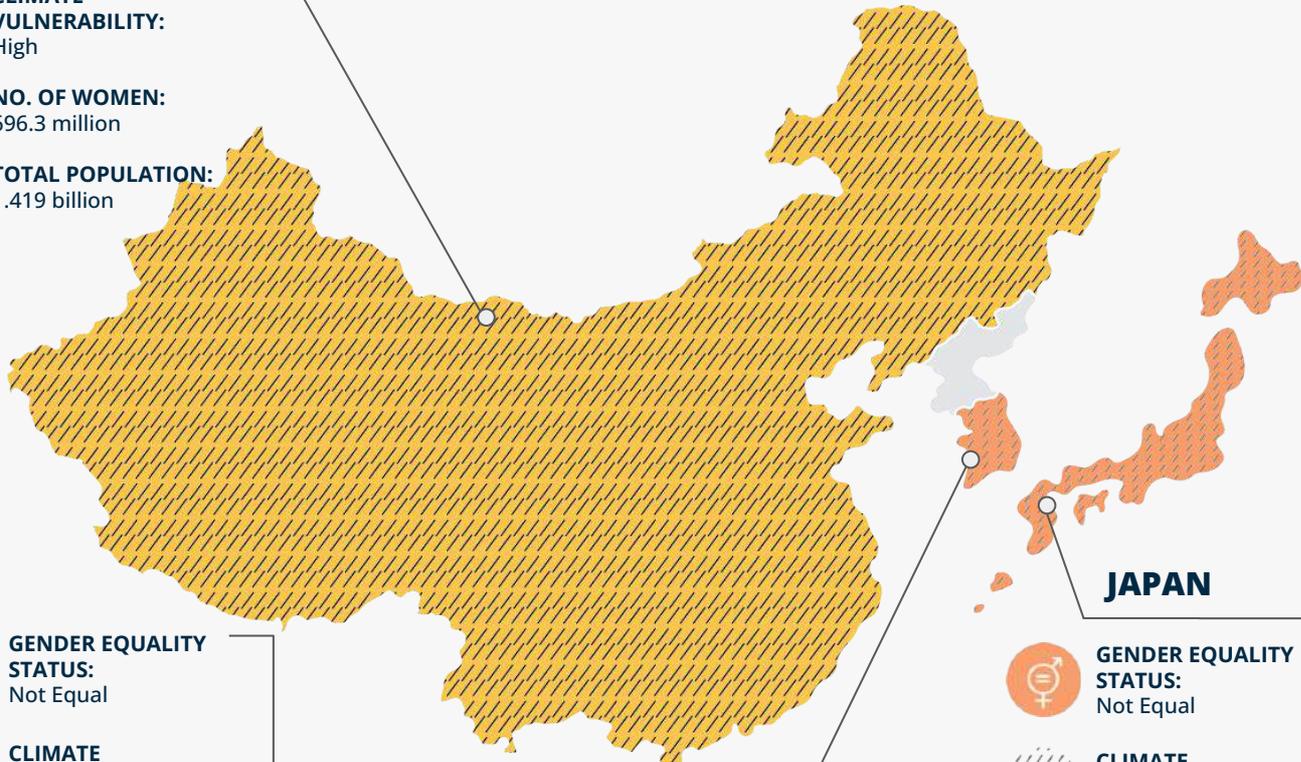


**CLIMATE VULNERABILITY:**  
High



**NO. OF WOMEN:**  
696.3 million

**TOTAL POPULATION:**  
1.419 billion



**GENDER EQUALITY STATUS:**  
Not Equal



**CLIMATE VULNERABILITY:**  
Moderate



**NO. OF WOMEN:**  
25.90 million

**TOTAL POPULATION:**  
51.72 million



**GENDER EQUALITY STATUS:**  
Not Equal



**CLIMATE VULNERABILITY:**  
Moderate



**NO. OF WOMEN:**  
63.08 million

**TOTAL POPULATION:**  
123.1 million

## JAPAN

## SOUTH KOREA

### TREND

### MAINLAND CHINA

### SOUTH KOREA

### JAPAN



**CLIMATE READINESS**

READY

READY

READY



**URGENCY FOR CLIMATE - GENDER NEXUS**

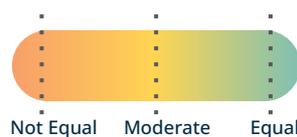
MODERATELY URGENT

MODERATELY URGENT

MODERATELY URGENT



**GENDER EQUALITY STATUS**



**CLIMATE VULNERABILITY**



After conducting an in-depth analysis of gender and climate challenges across three regions, AVPN further explored the critical role of the continuum of capital in advancing gender-responsive climate action. By examining how different forms of capital ranging from philanthropic funding and blended finance to private investments can be leveraged, AVPN sought to identify effective strategies for bridging financing gaps and accelerating solutions at the intersection of gender and climate.

## IV. Financing Gender-Climate Solutions across Asia

As per AVPN's extensive research, addressing the compounded challenges of climate vulnerability and gender inequality in Asia requires a significant infusion of capital to drive systemic change. Financing is critical for enabling the development, testing, and scaling of solutions that meet the unique needs of women in climate-vulnerable communities, empowering them with the tools and resources to mitigate climate risks and improve their livelihoods. The right financial support ensures that these solutions are not only sustainable but also scalable across regions facing similar challenges.





**Philanthropy** can play a critical role in addressing climate-gender challenges in Asia by providing seed capital, flexible funding, and de-risking investments in high-risk sectors, especially for underserved regions and women-led initiatives. Through strategic support in capacity building, building cross-border giving infrastructure, and innovative finance models, philanthropy can catalyse scalable, sustainable solutions that attract private sector involvement and drive systemic change.



**Blended Finance:** Despite strong growth in climate-focused investments through blended finance, significant gaps persist in integrating gender-sensitive approaches, with only a small fraction of initiatives explicitly targeting women as primary beneficiaries. Innovative instruments like Orange Bonds and Women's Livelihood Bonds demonstrate the potential for aligning gender equality with climate resilience, empowering women in sectors like agriculture, renewable energy, and infrastructure. By prioritising women-focused enterprises, designing gender-sensitive financing mechanisms, and fostering partnerships, blended finance can unlock scalable solutions, attract private investment, and accelerate systemic change.



**Impact Investing** is a crucial tool for addressing the intertwined challenges of climate and gender in Asia, focusing on sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and clean technology. However, while gender-lens investing is gaining traction, there is significant room for growth in integrating gender-responsive solutions into climate finance. Climate-Gender integration remains underdeveloped in many regions, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia, where impact investments largely overlook the gender dimensions of climate solutions. Expanding gender-inclusive strategies can significantly enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of these investments.

“ **There's a lack of awareness and capacity-building around how international financial instruments work—these must be made legible for local organisations.** ”

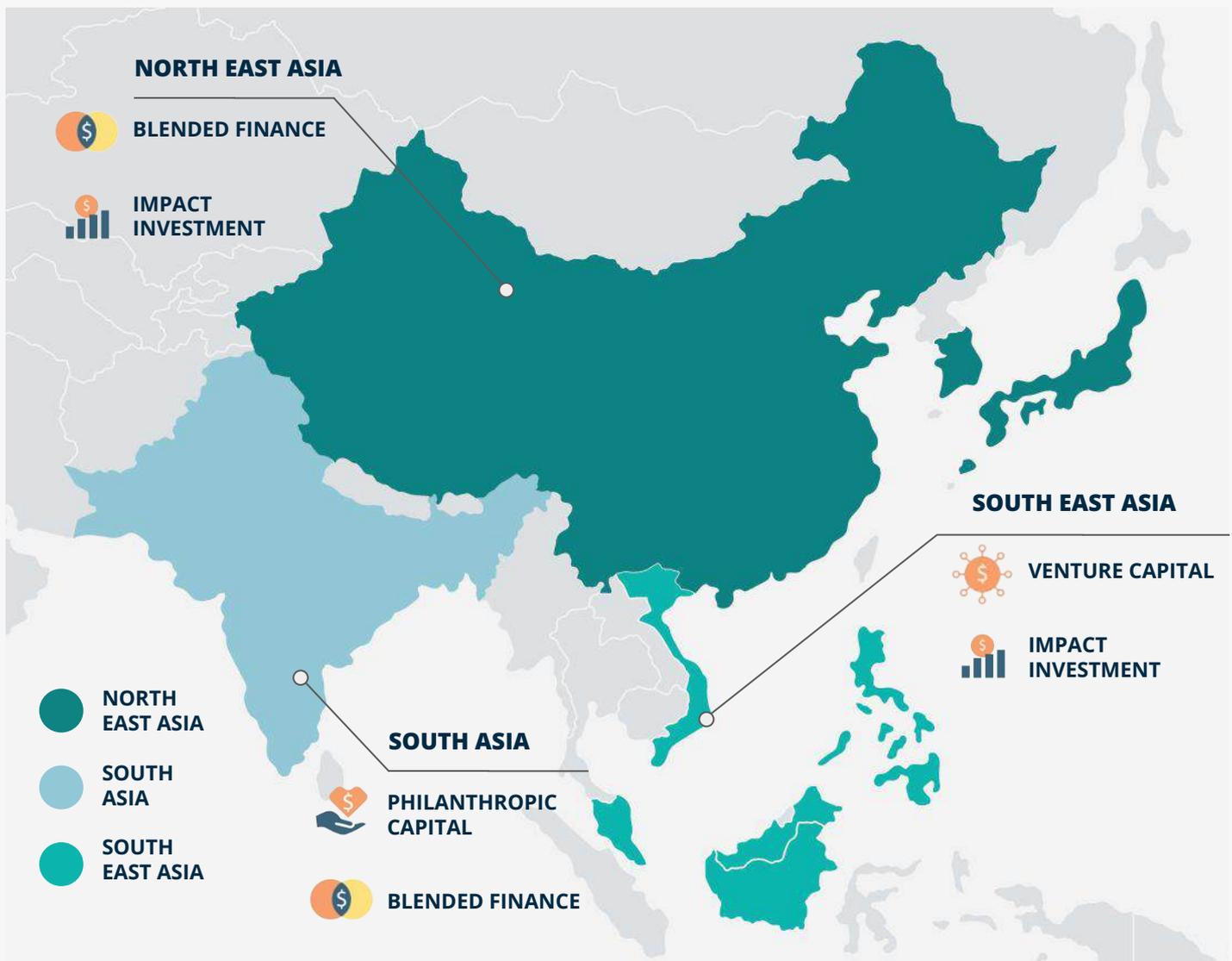
*Sonal Sharma, SEWA Bharat NGO*

## 4.1 Suitability\* of different forms of capital

AVPN's analysis highlights varying financial instrument usage across Asia's regions, reflecting diverse economic maturity and climate-gender financing priorities. These variations underscore the need for region-specific approaches to optimise financial tools for gender-responsive climate interventions

- **Southeast Asia** favors Venture Capital and Impact Investing, showcasing strong interest in scalable, tech-driven solutions in renewable energy and the Blue Economy.
- **South Asia** leans heavily on Philanthropic Capital and Blended Finance, emphasising early-stage and concessional funding to support rural electrification, agriculture resilience, and community-led projects.
- **Northeast Asia** shows significant reliance on Blended Finance for large-scale infrastructure and renewable energy, while moderate activity is seen in other instruments like impact investing.

*\*In this context, suitability refers to how well a particular financial instrument aligns with the needs and readiness of a region or sector to address the challenges related to climate action and gender equality.*



## V. Opportunities and Recommendations for funders across the continuum of capital

Through a comprehensive funder mapping exercise, combined with insights from primary and secondary data sources, we have identified priority sectors for climate-gender nexus financing across different regions of Asia. The following insights highlight both key financial instruments and investment sectors, aiming to guide stakeholders in aligning their capital with the most urgent challenges and opportunities at the intersection of gender and climate. This framework provides a strategic direction for investment, even in the absence of precise quantitative measures.



## 5.1 Region-Wise Insights and Priority sectors

The following diagrams provides a region wise insights on potential areas of interventions that can generate maximum impact and how different financial instruments stacks within specific regions

### SOUTH ASIA

 HIGH Priority



#### AGRICULTURE & LAND USE

HIGH Priority



#### RENEWABLE ENERGY

HIGH Priority



#### CLIMATE & HEALTH

HIGH Priority



#### DISASTER RESILIENCE

HIGH Priority

### Priority Financial Instruments



**Philanthropic Capital:** Highly active in agriculture resilience, women-led renewable energy, and post-disaster recovery.



**Blended Finance:** Enables scalable solutions in renewable energy (solar, wind) and climate-resilient farming.



**Impact Investing:** Focused on agriculture and renewable energy but underutilised in disaster resilience.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

 HIGH Priority



### AGRICULTURE & LAND USE

HIGH Priority



### RENEWABLE ENERGY

HIGH Priority



### BLUE ECONOMY

HIGH Priority

## Priority Financial Instruments



**Blended Finance:** Key for funding gender-responsive renewable energy and coastal resilience projects.



**Impact Investing:** Strong in agri-tech and sustainable aquaculture.

# NORTHEAST ASIA



HIGH Priority



MEDIUM Priority

Mainland



## Priority Financial Instruments



**Blended Finance:** Focus on infrastructure, renewable energy, and urban solutions.



**Impact Investing:** Opportunities in aquaculture, urban renewable energy.



### RENEWABLE ENERGY

HIGH Priority



### DISASTER RESILIENCE

MEDIUM Priority



### BLUE ECONOMY

HIGH Priority

“ Blended finance can unlock capital for women-led micro-businesses that are often excluded by traditional lenders—not due to lack of potential, but because of systemic barriers like informal operations, lack of collateral, and gender bias.

*Vibha Sharma, Villgro*



### 5.3 Call to Action for Ecosystem players

The urgency of climate change demands a bold, inclusive response one that fully integrates gender considerations into climate finance and solutions. Funders across the capital continuum - philanthropy, blended finance, and private investors—have a unique opportunity to bridge this gap. By channeling capital into gender-responsive climate initiatives, funders can drive systemic change, enhance resilience, and unlock new economic opportunities. This call to action outlines strategic steps for each funding group to catalyse impact at scale.

### 5.4 Cross Sector Collaboration and Policy levers

Action Areas	Key Actions
<b>Adopt a Holistic Approach</b>	Ensure all climate investments incorporate gender equality considerations.
<b>Enhance Impact Measurement</b>	Develop frameworks that capture both gender and climate outcomes.
<b>Advocate for Policy Change</b>	Fund research and advocacy to influence gender-responsive climate policies.
<b>Build Inclusive Networks</b>	Foster collaboration across sectors to create scalable, gender-inclusive climate solutions.

#### 5.4.1 Philanthropic Funders: Catalyse Early-Stage and Grassroots Initiatives

Action Areas	Key Actions
<b>Target Vulnerable Regions</b>	Prioritise funding in high-risk areas with SA, SEA and NEA regions, focusing on women in agriculture, renewable energy, and enabling disaster resilience.
<b>Provide Flexible Funding</b>	Offer unrestricted, long-term grants to grassroots organisations working at the climate-gender nexus.
<b>Support research and Advocacy</b>	Support regional dialogues and research grants that build a consensus on best practices, policy frameworks, and financial models that enable integration of gender and climate goals
<b>Enable Cross-Border Giving</b>	Develop infrastructure to facilitate regional philanthropy and engage younger donors and corporations.
<b>De-Risk Innovative Solutions</b>	Use philanthropic capital to de-risk investing in sectors like agriculture, and women-led renewable energy projects, to attract private investment.

## 5.4.2 Blended Finance Investors: Scale Gender-Responsive Climate Solutions

Action Area	Key Actions
Invest in key emerging areas	Use blended finance to support gender-inclusive projects in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, circular economy, waste management etc
Promote Green Jobs for Women	De-risk investments in training and capacity building programs for women in renewable energy, waste management, and the circular economy.
Strengthen Regional Platforms	Collaborate with regional initiatives (e.g., SDG Indonesia One, Singapore's FAST-P) to pool resources for cross-border investments.
Catalyse Women-Led Enterprises	Provide concessional loans and de-risk financing for women-led businesses in climate-smart sectors.

## 5.4.3 Impact Investors: Drive Innovation & Scale

Action Area	Key Actions
Invest in Technology-Driven Solutions	Support agritech, fintech, and cleantech innovations that support women entrepreneurs.
Invest in Women Led Businesses	Meet good practice in investment portfolios, such as identified in the 2X criteria in financing women-led businesses in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and water conservation.
Scale Proven Models	Expand successful initiatives like the GrowHer Fund and Pakistan's Women Ventures Program.
Innovate Financing Mechanisms	Use blended finance tools (e.g., carbon credits, concessional loans) to scale gender-inclusive climate projects.

The transition to a sustainable, climate-resilient future must be inclusive, equitable, and gender-responsive. Funders hold the key to unlocking this potential by integrating gender into climate finance strategies, scaling innovative solutions, and fostering cross-sector collaboration. Now is the time to act; by investing in women as leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers, funders can accelerate climate action while driving social and economic transformation across Asia.

“ We see the system change when the LPs are proactive in saying, 'from now on we care about this theme.' It's crucial to advocate to LPs and educate them to prioritise gender and climate in their portfolios.

*Lola, Venture Souq*

”

## 5.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing the intertwined challenges of climate vulnerability and gender inequality in Asia requires a multifaceted approach that integrates gender considerations into climate action. Women, particularly in rural and marginalised communities, are disproportionately affected by climate change, yet they also hold the key to effective and sustainable solutions. Empowering women through knowledge, financial inclusion, and leadership opportunities can significantly enhance climate resilience and drive systemic change.

This report has outlined a comprehensive framework for leveraging gender-responsive climate finance to address these challenges. By adopting localised strategies tailored to the unique needs of different regions in Asia, stakeholders can unlock significant co-benefits, including enhanced resilience, economic growth, and social equality. The use of innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance, impact investing, and sustainability bonds, coupled with collaboration between public and private sectors, can catalyse scalable solutions that deliver measurable impacts.

Ultimately, the success of gender-climate initiatives hinges on deliberate efforts to overcome systemic barriers, foster inclusive policies, and mobilise resources effectively. By prioritising gender considerations in climate action, Asia can lead the way in creating equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change, ensuring a resilient future for all.



## VI. AVPN's Role and Theory of Change

AVPN is committed to mobilising philanthropic and other forms of capital to address the interconnected challenges of climate change and gender inequality. By fostering inclusive and resilient communities through impactful and scalable interventions, AVPN aims to create a future where climate action and gender equality are mutually reinforcing.



## Intervention Approaches



**Connect:** Strengthen collaboration and amplify voices of those applying a gender lens to climate investments, including women leaders, funders, founders, and investors

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**Learn:** Establish knowledge leadership by providing practical resources, evidence, and thought leadership to stakeholders across Asia, fostering a deep understanding of gender-responsive climate action.

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**Act:** Equip leaders and organisations with the skills, knowledge, and networks to build, pilot and scale gender-responsive climate actions while mobilising diverse funding streams, including philanthropy, blended finance, and impact investments towards gender responsive climate solutions

---



**Lead:** Collaborate with policymakers to integrate gender-sensitive approaches into national and regional climate agendas, ensuring that both climate finance and policies are inclusive and equitable.

By embedding gender equality into climate strategies, AVPN will enhance the effectiveness of climate actions, increase women's socio-economic participation, and build more resilient and inclusive communities across Asia. This integrated approach not only addresses the immediate challenges but also creates a foundation for long-term, sustainable change.

## VII. Acknowledgements

AVPN would like to thank the consultants who helped shape this report- [Sidra Minhas](#) and [Maira Asif](#)

We are grateful to the following stakeholders for giving us their valuable time and insights for this strategy formulation:

- Abt Global
- BRAC
- SEWA
- UN Women
- IRENA
- Oak Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Plan International
- Villgro
- Venture souq

## VIII. Research Methodology

This study presents a rigorous methodology to identify priority areas for gender-inclusive climate action across Asia, aligning with AVPN's mission for systemic, inclusive development. It combines stakeholder consultations, thematic indices (ND-GAIN, Gender Gap Index, and NDCs), document reviews, and a funder mapping exercise. A core group of 55 organisations and a broader dataset of 172 AVPN members were analysed to uncover financial trends and opportunities at the climate-gender nexus. Ten interviews with stakeholders added qualitative insights. Thematic indices helped identify regions where gender inequality and climate vulnerability intersect, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan. Sectoral and financial reports provided further context on investment gaps and instruments. Despite data limitations and exclusions of West Asia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan due to methodological constraints, the study offers practical, actionable insights. It emphasises the need for better data on gender-climate finance and aims to guide strategic capital allocation for high-impact gender-responsive climate solutions across Asia.

### **Mapping of climate gender nexus**

The indices worked together to provide a nuanced understanding of climate vulnerability and gender inequality. The ND-GAIN Index identified regions with high climate vulnerability, while the Gender Gap Index assessed whether gender inequality exacerbated these vulnerabilities. For instance, while Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate risks, its gender inequality means that women, who are often key players in climate resilience, are less able to participate in Climate Action efforts. This intersection revealed key opportunities for gender-responsive interventions in regions where climate vulnerability and gender inequality overlap.

The NDCs provided insight into which sectors governments are prioritising for climate action. The Gender Gap Index then helped to assess how gender was being considered in these sectors. The diagrams reveal clear regional trends in the interplay between climate vulnerability, gender inequality, and climate readiness across Asian countries. Overall, the data underscores a stark divide between regions that exhibit high climate vulnerability and low gender equality and those with strong climate readiness but moderate gender gaps.

## IX. Definitions of key terms

- **Blended Finance:** A financial strategy that combines public and private capital to fund projects in high-risk sectors, such as renewable energy, agriculture, or infrastructure, aiming to attract investment by reducing risks.
- **Blue Economy:** The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and ocean ecosystem health, covering areas like fisheries, marine energy, and coastal protection.
- **Carbon Credits:** Tradable certificates that represent greenhouse gas emissions reductions, used to fund projects aimed at mitigating climate change.
- **Climate Action:** Climate action is the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change impacts, and adapt to its effects for a sustainable future.
- **Climate-Gender Nexus:** The intersection of climate change and gender inequality, focusing on women as key agents in climate adaptation and mitigation solutions.
- **Climate-Gender Nexus Financing:** Investments aimed at women-led or women-empowering climate solutions, integrating gender equality into climate action projects.
- **Climate Risk:** The potential for harm to human or ecological systems caused by climate change, encompassing both physical and transition risks.
- **Climate Vulnerability:** the degree to which a system (natural or human) is susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. It's essentially the propensity or predisposition of a system to be negatively affected by climate-related events. The ND-GAIN Index evaluates countries' climate vulnerability, measuring their exposure to climate risks, sensitivity to these risks, and their readiness to adapt. Countries with low scores on ND-GAIN, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, are highly vulnerable to climate impacts, making them urgent priorities for climate resilience interventions.

## IX. Definitions of key terms

- **Concessional Loans:** Loans provided on favorable terms, such as low interest rates or extended repayment periods, often used to incentivise private sector participation in high-risk projects.
- **Disaster Resilience:** The ability of communities or systems to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disasters, minimising long-term disruptions.
- **Gender Equality:** Gender equality is defined as equal access to rights, responsibilities, opportunities, and resources for women, men, non-binary individuals, and for those from marginalised communities.
- **Impact Investing:** Investments aimed at generating measurable positive social and environmental outcomes alongside financial returns



AVPN is a unique funders' network committed to building a vibrant and high impact social investment ecosystem across Asia. AVPN is catalysing more strategic and collaborative social investment from philanthropy to impact investing, addressing key social challenges facing Asia today and in the future.



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