

GENDER PERSPECTIVE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SECTOR OF UKRAINE



The research and report publication was produced within the WE ACT: Women Empowerment Action programme, implemented by the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, and funded by the European Union. Materials, conclusions and recommendations reflect the views of authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of UNFPA and the European Union.

The research "Gender perspective of the environmental protection sector of Ukraine" was conducted to identify opportunities for closing gender gaps in the environmental protection sector: the use of environmentally friendly practices, minimisation of the negative impact of climate change and pollution on women and men, equitable distribution of funds and increase of women's participation in environmental decision-making. Materials of the research will complement the country's gender profile with a focus on the gender dimension of the implementation of AA/DCFTA (The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area) cooperation/EU assistance in Ukraine.

Research company: Razumkov Center

Coordination and methodological support:

Nataliia Koshovska, Program Analyst, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, UNFPA

Maksym Liushan, Programme Coordinator, WE ACT: Women's Empowerment Action

Expert support:

Marianna Kolodii, Director, Center for Gender Studies, Uzhhorod National University,

Inna Datsiuk, Environmental Protection Expert

Please use QR code to download research text and infographics:



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	6
METHODOLOGY	7
REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	9
GENDER PARITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: OVERVIEW.....	20
SOCIOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF GENDER ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	30
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	38

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Gender – socially determined differences between women and men, modelled by society and supported by social institutions system of values, norms and characteristics of male and female behaviour, lifestyle and way of thinking, roles and relationships of women and men acquired by them as individuals in the process of socialisation that is determined by political, economic and cultural contexts of life and captures the perception of women and men depending on their gender.

Gender equality – the state of social relations when women and men have equal conditions for the realisation of their human rights in full and for contributing to economic, social, cultural and political development. Gender equality requires women and men to become full partners in their home, in their workplace, in their community and in their society.

Gender approach – taking into account the different needs of women and men appeared due to their social roles, as well as a strategy to make the problems and experiences of both women and men an integral part of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and social spheres. The principle of equal opportunities regardless of gender is fundamental to the gender approach.

Gender mainstreaming a globally recognized strategy for implementing gender equality policy. Gender mainstreaming involves integration of gender perspective in the preparation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of policies, regulations and budget expenditures, with a view to promoting gender equality between women and men and combating discrimination.

Green economy an economy that improves human well-being and social justice while significantly reducing environmental risks and deficits (UNEP 2011).

INTRODUCTION

The UN declared access to a clean and healthy environment a fundamental human right.¹ The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted three global threats and the most serious human rights problems – *climate change*, *environmental pollution* and *habitat destruction*. This should be the starting point for promoting innovative economic, social and environmental policies that will protect people and nature.

How do women and men interact with the environment? Is it possible to use a gender approach to address environmental problems? Is there a link between gender-based discrimination and environmental crises? Do gender stereotypes influence consumer behaviour? These and many other questions constitute a gender perspective of the environment.

The study of the different impact of environmental issues on women and men has become increasingly important due to altering approaches to economic activity, changing social standards and values, urbanisation at the global and local levels.

One of the key components of reducing the negative impact of climate change and other pollution-related problems is gender equality and equity in the implementation of policies and measures in this area. Gender impact assessment is crucial for understanding how policies and legislation on climate change, environment protection and energy affect women and men, boys and girls; and whether funds are allocated fairly to minimise negative impacts.

The Global Gender and Environment Outlook of the United Nations Environment Programme, supported by the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment, calls for greater attention to the role of women as drivers of change. It emphasises critical gender environmental approaches and the agenda for transformations that recognises gender equality as a driver of change, making environmental policies increasingly gender sensitive.

By exploring the gender dimension of sustainable development, one can envision the future and achieve tangible changes in the lives of people around the world, while caring for the environment.

The goal of the study is to:

- identify opportunities to address gender gaps in environment protection, such as the use of environmentally friendly practices, minimisation of the negative impact of climate change and pollution on women and men, equitable distribution of funds and increase of women's participation in environmental decision-making.

1 UN declares access to a clean environment a human right, <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/un-passes-resolution-making-clean-environment-access-human-right-2021-10-08>

METHODOLOGY

Gender analysis. Gender analysis of environmental, climate change and green transition policies seeks to identify the different needs of women and men, and how these needs can be met through social justice and non-discrimination on the grounds on gender, with a focus on achieving equal opportunities for women and men.

Desk review. The data were analysed using mixed methods.

To assess gender impact, primary data were collected, including state statistics of Ukraine, information reported as part of monitoring agreements with international organisations or through public sources, including analytical reports from international organisations, national ministries and referenced scientific publications.

In collecting the information, relevant data were reviewed; the national and international stakeholders in ecology, climate change and green transition were consulted. In particular, the assessment included:

- analytical review of international commitments, current publications and reports;
- assessment of national policies and the status of their implementation;
- consultations with government ministries, UN agencies and other international organisations; and
- in-depth interviews with key informants and subject matter experts.

The following were considered as identifying indicators of gender inequality in the environment:

- Green transition and gender aspects of energy consumption, access to RES and energy poverty
- Agricultural sector
- Mobility
- Access to clean drinking water
- Gender aspects related to changing consumption patterns
- Participation of women in environmental institutions and education

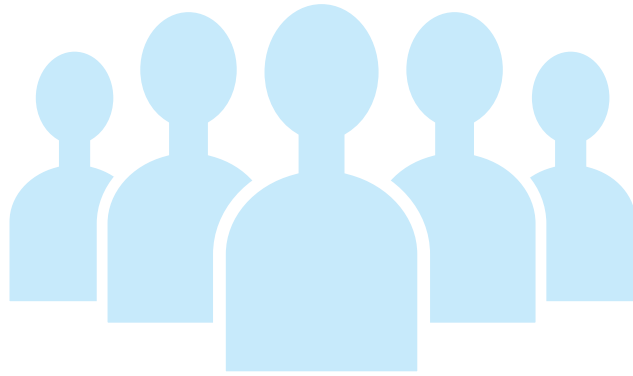
Nationwide sociological study. To achieve the study goals, a nationwide face-to-face survey of the adult population of Ukraine was conducted in respondents' places. The survey sample represented the adult population aged 18+ in all regions of Ukraine excluding Crimea and non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, in line with the main socio-demographic indicators (region, type of settlement, gender, age).

Statistical source of the sample: the data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine on the socio-demographic structure of the population of Ukraine. During the field stage, 2,018 completed questionnaires were collected. The survey sample was constructed as stratified, multi-staged, randomised at the initial stage of selection, and quota selection of respondents at the final stage (selection by gender and age quotas). The survey involved 133 interviewers (112 women and 21 men). The sample was structured in a way that all members of the general population had the same statistical probability of being included in the sample. A comparison of demographic distributions with statistics to assess representativeness shows the maximum margin of error at 0.2%.

Online expert survey was conducted to assess the environmental situation by the citizens of Ukraine and determine the level of concern about environmental issues. 52 experts were interviewed using a combined survey methodology (a combination of online surveys and face-to-face interviews).



REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK



Major environmental funds, including the Global Environment Facility, the Climate Investment Funds, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, have adopted gender strategies or mechanisms. At the legislative level, the EU member states are in the process of eliminating gender inequalities and ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

THE RIGHT TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IS A UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHT

The right to a healthy environment is formally recognised by more than 80% of UN Member States in their constitutions, legislation, court decisions and regional treaties. This right is already implicitly mentioned in global human rights treaties, although it has not been directly recognised by states through the UN. A wide range of UN and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as NGOs, trade unions and business groups, have expressed support for global recognition of the right to a healthy environment.

On 8 October 2021, at its 48th session in Geneva, the UN Human Rights Council, whose mission is to promote and protect human rights worldwide, adopted a resolution recognising a healthy and safe environment as a universal and fundamental human right² for the first time in UN history. Although the Council's resolutions are not legally binding, they do contain strong political commitments. Recognising the right to a healthy environment at the state level contributes to environmental improvements, including reducing air pollution, increasing access to clean drinking water and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It also enables communities to protect their rights that have been violated by adverse environmental impacts.

Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs

Gender equality is central to achieving the SDGs; the goals recognise the comprehensive and mainstreaming nature of ecological, social, and economic issues. Gender equality and women's empowerment are defined as a stand-alone goal (Goal 5) and a cross-cutting issue in other SDGs with a corresponding list of targets, such as commitments to collect data disaggregated by sex and age. Besides, Goal 5 calls for eliminating all types of violence and discrimination against women in all areas of social life, including marriage, the workforce, economy. More than 25% of all targets relate directly or indirectly to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Sustainable development for all women and men implies sustainable social development, sustainable economic growth, good governance, and a safe environment for all women and men. Ensuring affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) involves upgrading energy infrastructure and improving energy efficiency.

² Environment 48th Session of the UN Human Rights, Council <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/fr/ressources/nouvelles/environment-48th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council>

Though feministic organisations give a high mark for the SDGs, there are several critical comments.³ These comments relate to an inability to use a gender transformative approach⁴ to economic and social structures, promotion of traditional economic models, and the priority of economic growth in the SDGs. The main problem is that the SDGs do not consider root causes and social norms integrated into traditional economic models and their influence on the existence of gender inequality.

The Global Gender and Environment Outlook, GGEO⁵

Recognising the importance of addressing gender issues from an environmental perspective and in response to the call by the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 "The Future We Want"⁶, the UN called for governments and politicians to immediately implement measures to solve urgent ecological issues for achieving the SDGs. The call also envisioned the conduction of an innovative Global Gender and Environment Outlook to demonstrate how women and men are impacted differently by environmental problems and climate change. Furthermore, gender roles and stereotypes dictate the difference in men's and women's attitude towards the environment, and in their actions as drivers of ecological change.

The Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO) is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and strategic partners to bring gender issues to the centre of environmental assessment and decision-making. The Global Gender and Environment Outlook⁷ was presented at the second UN Environment Assembly in May 2016. GGEO is a comprehensive overview of the links between gender and environment in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Development Agenda.

The GGEO provides an overview of existing knowledge to generate insights and gives a first set of answers to the following key policy-relevant questions:

- What social forces are producing the changes seen in the environment and are they gender dependent?
- What are the large-scale consequences of ongoing ecological changes for social systems and human security and are the impacts gender-differentiated?
- What do future projections and outlooks look like, are they gender-differentiated and will there be different outcomes for women and men?
- What actions could be taken for a more sustainable future that will position men and women as equal agents in taking such actions and which socio-economic factors will shape different outcomes and responses for men and women?

3 Feminist Critiques of the Sustainable Development Goals. Analysis and Bibliography 2017. Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights. https://genderandsecurity.org/sites/default/files/Feminist_Critiques_of_the_SDGs_-_Analysis_and_Bibliography_-_CGSHR.pdf

4 Gender Sensitive - approach that recognises different needs of women, men, boys and girls and acknowledges gender power dynamics but does not necessarily address these other than to try and integrate an understanding of these dynamics
Gender Responsive - approach which includes specific action to try and reduce gender inequalities within communities
Gender Transformative - approach which is designed around a fundamental aim of addressing root causes of gender inequality within society

5 Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO), <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-gender-and-environment-outlook-ggeo>

6 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/733FutureWeWant.pdf>

7 Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO) 2018 2018 <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-gender-and-environment-outlook-ggeo>

One of the pivotal contributions of GGEO is a review and assessment of available data at the intersection of gender and environment. Overall, there is only limited information available about the differences between women's and men's needs, resource uses, and responsibilities. The availability of data is important because of a simple tenet – what's not counted doesn't count. Women's roles are often invisible in sectors such as biodiversity due to lack of comprehensive sex-disaggregated data and information.

Gender equality strategy, GES⁸ 2020-2025

The European Commission has presented a new five-year strategy for gender equality aimed at eliminating inequalities between men and women in EU countries. To improve the situation, the European Commission considers it necessary to integrate the principle of gender equality into policies that have a direct and indirect impact on the lives of women and men. To this end, the European Commission adopted a *gender mainstreaming approach* in its policies in 1996.⁹

The EU introduced the first *Gender Equality Strategy (GES)*¹⁰ from 2020 to 2025, setting an important milestone for women's rights and gender equality. It is noteworthy that the GES clearly refers to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 that addresses gender equality and women's empowerment.

Key elements of the GES are targeted approaches for women and girls, and the use of the 25-year-old principle of gender mainstreaming, launched at the landmark UN Beijing Conference, in all policies, programmes and legislation, including the EU's ambition for greener and more sustainable Europe. This means, for example, that the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy should not only be gender responsive, but also equally meet the different needs of women and men. The health effects of polluted and toxic environments on men's and women's health require specific gender sensitive interventions.

First and foremost, the Gender Equality Strategy outlines the areas where gender discrimination exists and proposes specific mechanisms to address it. The GES will aim at achieving "a Union where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are equal [...] the Commission will enhance gender mainstreaming by systematically including a gender perspective in all stages of policy making. The Strategy will be implemented using *intersectionality* as a cross-cutting principle, meaning that it must consider other personal characteristics/identities that intersect with gender and sex, such as age, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, health. Intersectionality enables understanding of individual needs and individual cases of multiple discrimination, and the way to respond to them.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

In response to the growing demand for gender mainstreaming in the Convention on Biological Diversity, a target plan was adopted to stimulate and encourage efforts to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities to promote gender equality. This Gender Plan of Action¹¹ recognised gender mainstreaming as "the primary method of integrating gender into all development and

8 European Commission. Gender equality strategy. Achievements and key areas for action, https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en

9 Incorporation of equal opportunities into Community policies, <https://library.fes.de/libalt/journals/swetsfulltext/15679391.pdf>, Gender mainstreaming in the European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3Ac10921>

10 European Commission. Gender equality strategy. Achievements and key areas for action, https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en

11 CBD, Gender Plan of Action <https://www.cbd.int/gender/action-plan>

environmental efforts", and a large-scale programme was proposed by the CBD to specifically address these requirements. The plan identified four strategic objectives:

1. To mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the Convention and the associated work of Parties and the Secretariat;
2. To promote gender equality in achieving the objectives of the Convention and other future instruments;
3. To demonstrate the benefits of gender mainstreaming in measures towards the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
4. To increase the effectiveness of the work of the Secretariat.

The Women's Major Group at UN Environment (WGMG-UNEA)¹²

As an input to the Rio+20 final document "The Future We Want", *Women's Major Group*¹³ presented a narrative that clearly set out the concepts of a just and sustainable world – "Social equity, gender equality and environmental justice must form the heart of sustainable development, and of the outcomes of the Rio+20 UN Conference". The document identifies measures to promote gender equality in all spheres of society, respect for human rights and social justice, and protection of the environment and human health.

Women's Major Group was established at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at which governments recognised women as one of nine important groups in society to achieve sustainable development. The Women's Major Group is an official participant in the UN sustainable development processes. Other processes use major groups or similar systems, with the Women's Major Group actively participating in the UN Environment Programme since 1996.

Promoting a green economy was the centrepiece of the Rio+20 discussions. It was presented as a strategic option to overcome the shortcomings of modern forms of economic activity that depleted natural resources and polluted the environment. However, there is still no consensus on what a green economy is. There are only competing ideas for optimal paths to sustainable development.

The Women's Major Group has criticised the use of the term *green economy*, arguing that it is too often separated from the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and expressing concern that the term may be used and misused to greenwash existing unsustainable economic practices that lead to inequalities and infringe on the rights of affected peoples and future generations, because it does not fundamentally and adequately question and transform the current economic paradigm.¹⁴

¹² Women's Major Group. <https://www.womensmajorgroup.org>

¹³ Women's Major Group, 2011. 'Women's Major Group Summary Input to Zero Draft Outcome Document'. 1 November. UN Conference on Sustainable Development http://www.womenforclimate.org/download/2011/November/WomensMajorGroupSubmission_withAnnex_1Nov2011.pdf?m=1321006847&

¹⁴ Women's Major Group Summary Input to "Zero Draft" Outcome Document UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) 1 November 2011, http://www.womenforclimate.org/download/2011/November/WomensMajorGroupSubmission_withAnnex_1Nov2011.pdf?m=1321006847&

The Group has insisted that the current economic system harms women and the environment, is inequitable and unsustainable, and uses performance indicators that are socially and environmentally blind.

Therefore, the Women's Major Group suggested replacing the term *green economy* with *sustainable and equitable economy*, and formulated its goals, principles and indicators to measure its performance. These principles include:

WMG-UNEA work together to:

- overcome structural economic, social and environmental crises that disproportionately impact women and girls;
- tackle intersecting inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, age, class, caste, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sexual characteristics, disabilities, and other status;
- ensure government accountability to commitments of gender equity and sustainable development; and
- create diverse, vibrant, equal and just societies for all people;
- tackle all structural barriers that violate planetary boundaries and nature's health and integrity;

struggle against the commodification of nature¹⁵. The Women's Major Group identified measures to promote:

- gender equality in all spheres of our societies;
- respect for human rights and social justice;
- environmental conservation and protection of human health.

Another positive fact is that the Rio+20 final document regularly mentions "green economy" in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) are a set of seven Principles established by UN Global Compact and UN Women, offering a clear, consistent, and achievable vision of the input that businesses can contribute to promoting gender equality in parallel with sustainable economic growth. The main goal of the Principles 1-5 is to integrate gender sensitive policies in the workplace that gives women equal opportunities for promotion in the corporate sector. In particular, the Principles 5 calls for establishing high-level corporate leadership for gender equality, treating all women and men fairly at work, ensuring the health and safety of all women and men, promoting education and professional development for women, implementing practices for enterprise development, supply chain and marketing that empower women. Principle 6 envisions promoting

¹⁵ Working Principles and Values Women's Major Group at UN Environment / UNEA. Women's Major Group. https://www.womensmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/UNEP-WMG-Principles-and-Values-Statement_FINAL.pdf

equality through community initiatives and advocacy. Principle 7 encourages measuring and publicly reporting on progress to achieve gender equality¹⁶.

Overall, 14 companies have joined the WEPs initiative in Ukraine, including such notable organisations as PJSC Ukrhydroenergo, DTEK group, and Starlight Media LLC. The main goal is to raise awareness of the importance of women's leadership in the corporate sector and show the benefits of balanced teams. Ukrainian business society follows global trends on women's economic empowerment and women's leadership in the corporate sector.

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC Sixth Report, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*¹⁷, assesses climate change by studying ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at the global and regional levels. The report's recommendations emphasise that a critical area for the government to drive is to support the skills and knowledge needed to build net-zero carbon communities. However, without a plan to identify gender inequalities in opportunities that will occur due to this transition, the economy will not be able to achieve a just and equitable path to a clean net-zero carbon future. Thus, the main issue to be addressed is creating more opportunities for women to ensure a just, sustainable, and inclusive transition. And what starting conditions can governments and the private sector make to engage more women in adjacent sectors.

European Green Deal

The green economy is the main economic driver behind the national development priorities of EU countries. The European Green Deal,¹⁸ a new growth strategy, aims to achieve climate neutrality on the continent by 2050. This can be achieved by introducing green technologies, building sustainable industry, energy and transport, and reducing pollution. Transforming climate and environmental issues into opportunities will make the transition fair and inclusive.

According to Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Council, manufacturing innovations will help create 2.7 million jobs¹⁹ over the next 20 years. However, a shortage of skilled workers in this field is hampering the realisation of this potential. The average proportion of women in the energy sector worldwide is only 22-25% of the total workforce.²⁰

16 Women's Empowerment Principles, <https://www.weps.org>

17 *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 22.02.2022
https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

18 The European Green Deal is an action programme that sets clear common goals: zero carbon emissions by 2050 and 50 to 55% reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels), which is based on building a sustainable economy and covers virtually all EU activities:
1) increasing the EU's climate ambition for 2030 and 2050; 2) supplying clean, affordable and secure energy; 3) mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy; 4) building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way; 5) accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility; 6) designing a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system; 7) preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity; 8) a zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment; 9) mobilising research and fostering innovation

19 WiRES (Women in Renewable Energy Sector). Green Policy Planform, <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/project/wires-women-renewable-energy-sector>

20 Increasing women's participation in the energy sector – addressing the challenges, <https://www.energyeconomicgrowth.org/blog/increasing-womens-participation-energy-sector-addressing-challenges>.

An expert study of EU climate policy shows that it lacks gender mainstreaming:²¹

- the European Green Deal²² makes no mention of gender / women / men (although it states that the SDGs will be at the heart of the EU's policy making);
- the climate and energy framework 2030²³ makes no mention of gender / women / men;
- a Clean Planet for All²⁴ makes no mention of gender / women / men;
- the Environmental Action Programme²⁵ makes one mention of pregnant women as a vulnerable group.

This is despite the fact that gender mainstreaming is a treaty obligation; that a framework for EU gender equality policy and gender mainstreaming is set out in the Gender Equality Strategy,²⁶ and a framework for integrating gender equality into all external action is set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP III 2021-2025);²⁷ and that the EU is committed to the SDGs (2015) and to the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (2019).²⁸

Studies by a consortium of research institutions²⁹ have concluded that much of Europe's environmental policy is gender-blind and lacks analysis of environmental issues as complex socio-political challenges. In particular, the European Green Deal largely focuses on technological and scientific solutions and is not gender sensitive.

Gender impact assessment is crucial for understanding how new EU climate and energy policies and legislation affect women and men of different groups; it is a critical component of the EU's gender mainstreaming toolkit. The Commission's impact assessments incorporate three dimensions: the potential economic, social and environmental consequences of the proposed initiative.

In the meantime, the only EU institution that has paid significant attention to the relation between gender and climate change is the European Parliament, which has produced a number of relevant reports and resolutions. For example, the Resolution of 20 April 2021 (2012/2197(INI))³⁰ is a stark declaration of the inseparable nature of gender equity and climate justice. The resolution does not call simply for the numerical presence of women in climate decision-making, but for the inclusion at all levels of decision-making of "gender equality and gender equity objectives in policies, action plans and other measures", for systematic gender analyses, and for the inclusion of gender equality principles at all stages of climate change negotiation.

21 Mainstreaming Gender and Climate Change to Achieve a Just Transition to a Climate-Neutral Europe, Gill Allwood, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jcms.13082>

22 European Commission. (2019) The European Green Deal. COM(2019)640 final, 11 December.

23 The 2030 climate and energy framework, Commission communication on a policy framework for climate and energy from 2020 to 2030 - COM(2014) 0015, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/climate-change/2030-climate-and-energy-framework>

24 European Commission. (2018) A Clean Planet for All: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy. COM(2018)773 final, 28 November, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0773>

25 Environment Action Programme (EAP), <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme>

26 European Commission. (2020) A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. COM(2020)152 final, March, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>

27 EU Gender Action Plan III An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

28 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC. <https://unfccc.int/>

29 European Green Deal's blind spots set to widen inequalities and weaken environmental protection: report <https://www.wecf.org/european-green-deals-gender-blind-spots/>

30 European Parliament. (2012) Resolution on women and climate change. 2011/2197(INI), 20 April., https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2012-0145_EN.html

In summary, climate change is framed as a technical and market problem, or as one that is deeply entwined with foreign strategic priorities, such as migration and security. This contributes to the exclusion of gender equality from climate policy. The gender mainstreaming and policy coordination documents shows that overcoming this obstacle requires focusing on achieving gender equality and recognising that the goals of gender equality and climate justice are inseparable.



UKRAINE'S NATIONAL REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The main environmental problems in Ukraine include the effects of climate change, air pollution, water problems, soil degradation and contamination, subsoil exploitation issues, biodiversity conservation, waste management, problems of certain territories (illegal amber mining, flooding of mines in Donbas).

Ukraine supports the "green" (energy) transition in pursuance of the goals set out in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, so it is important to understand how women and men can benefit equally from such a transition.

Ukraine's environmental and climate change legislation includes components of legislative and sub-legislative regulation – constitutional, environmental and legal provisions based on laws of Ukraine, codes and international legislation.³¹

The current *Constitution of Ukraine* (1996) provides the principles for state action to promote efficient use of natural resources, environmental protection and environmental safety. Every citizen of Ukraine is guaranteed the right to a safe environment for life and health (environmental safety) and compensation for damages caused by violation of this right (Part 1 of Article 50). In addition, the Constitution of Ukraine provides for the right of citizens to free access to environmental information, including the quality of food and consumer goods, and the possibility of its further dissemination (Part 2 of Article 50).

In general, Ukraine's environmental legislation system has been developing since independence of Ukraine using international experience in the field of environmental law. Dozens of relevant laws and codes have been adopted, regulating the entire spectrum of environmental and legal relations in the country. They, however, were developed without considering the gender approach.

Below are some key recently adopted strategic documents that are important for society but do not include a gender component:

*The National Strategy for Waste Management in Ukraine until 2030*³² addresses the waste problem as a major one, primarily caused by the dominance of resource-intensive multi-waste technologies in the national economy, as well as the lack of effective waste management. The National Waste Management Plan until 2030 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers Directive No. 117-r of 20 February 2019. The aim of the Strategy is to create conditions for improving the living standards by introducing a systematic approach to waste management at the state and regional level, reducing waste generation and increasing waste recycling and reuse. The Strategy is a completely gender-blind document. For example, the strategy lacks a gender analysis of the

31 Law of Ukraine No. 2697-VIII of 28 February 2019 "On Fundamental Principles (Strategy) of State Environmental Policy of Ukraine for the Period until 2030", <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2697-19#Text>

32 Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Directive No. 820-r of 8 November 2017 "On approval of the National Strategy for Waste Management in Ukraine until 2030"

negative impact of landfills, meaning it lacks an understanding of which populations suffer most from the accumulation of industrial, domestic, medical and other types of waste. The strategy also addresses the improvement of waste management infrastructure - this action can have a gender-differentiated impact, i.e. affect women and men in different ways, for example, in terms of creating additional jobs.

Ukraine also joined the European Green Deal by developing its own *Concept of Green Energy Transition until 2050*,³³ which covers all sectors. The concept lacks a gender impact assessment, meaning the negative impact from energy transition on women and men has not been defined. Furthermore, an analysis of the needs of women and men and collection of gender disaggregated data is not an obligation component of the concept.

The National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 was adopted and the *Energy Strategy of Ukraine 2035* is currently under revision. Both documents are expected to consider gender vulnerability, prospects for employment equality in the energy sector, communication and training, and monitoring and reporting on gender responsive measures and outcomes.

The government adopted the updated *Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine (NDC-2)*³⁴ to the Paris Agreement, which was presented at the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow (31 October – 12 December 2021) to solidify the position of Ukraine's international commitment to the energy transition, taking into account the economic situation. A gender analysis and recommendations were provided to analyse the situation of different groups of women and men in the areas involved in climate change; to analyse women's access to climate policy decision-making and the impact of gender on readiness to adopt and promote change in different sectors of the economy. According to an analytical report³⁵ on the updated Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine, regardless of the existence of institutional mechanisms for ensuring gender equality, the gender component has not been integrated yet into policies related to climate change. Cross-sectoral gender issues within the NDC reflect the gender issues present in Ukrainian society. Women are underrepresented in climate policy decision-making, a gender pay gap exists in all the sectors involved in counteraction of climate change, and the share of formally employed women is lower than that of men, particularly among entrepreneurs in areas concerned. Vulnerable groups of women and men have less resources to adapt to climate change consequences. For example, according to research, heat waves affect vulnerable populations most of all, including older persons, the majority of whom are women. The need to adapt to climate change is more typical for persons working in open air and spending more time in public places (e.g. child-carers, most of which are women).

The adoption of the *Concept of Communication in the Field of Gender Equality until 2025*³⁶ aims to improve public understanding of the essence and objectives of state gender policy and its perception as an integral part of a democratic and rule-of-law state. The Concept focuses on raising awareness of a future where every woman and man living in Ukraine enjoys equal rights and opportunities to fully participate in all spheres of life without discrimination, violence, and exploitation.

33 Concept of Green Energy Transition of Ukraine until 2050, <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/34424.html>

34 Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement <https://mepr.gov.ua/files/03082021/Дода-ток%20НВВ%20для%20сайту.pdf>

35 https://mepr.gov.ua/files/images/2021/29042021/Analytical%20Report_%20Project_EN.PDF

36 Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Directive No.1128-r of 16 September 2020 "On Approval of the Concept of communication in the field of gender equality", <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1128-2020-%D1%80#Text>

Implementation of the Concept should create favorable conditions for improving the perception of gender equality in society, understanding and upholding the basic principles of equality, promoting zero tolerance among all target audiences to all forms of discrimination, overcoming gender stereotypes, and instilling standards of equality of women and men. In addition, the Concept will contribute to the sustainable development and progress of Ukrainian society as a whole and the implementation of the reform program to achieve the strategic goal of membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance.



GENDER PARITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: OVERVIEW





GENDER STATISTICS

In Ukraine, gender aspects remain on the periphery of statistical content at all levels - national, local and sectoral.³⁷ The presented official statistics for many sectors and spheres have virtually no data disaggregation by sex.

The study of the impact of environmental changes on men and women's vital activities (in the economic, social, humanitarian spheres, and particularly in education, health and the environment) has virtually no statistical basis. As for the assessment of the impact of environmental measures on women and men's socio-economic activities, it is practically non-existent (except for indirect assessments or sociological surveys).³⁸

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The problems of continuous pollution of the environment, including air, natural waters and soil, are particularly relevant for Ukraine. According to the WHO, air pollution is one of the main environment-related health risk factors. Lower level of air pollution means less cardiovascular and respiratory diseases in both the long and short term.

Most of this waste and pollution in Ukraine is generated in cities. The main sources of pollution are transport, household and industrial waste. Inefficient waste management leads to the expansion of landfills.

Air pollution. Air pollution negatively affects both men and women, reducing the quality and duration of life. At the same time, polluted air has a disproportionate negative effect on women and girls. Microparticles that enter the air through the exhaust gases as a result of burning dry grass or solid fuel for heating can cause premature birth. In addition, different types of smog have a negative impact on yields, which in turn provokes higher prices. Given the fact that women earn less than men, any increase in prices leads to food insecurity of female-headed households rather than male-headed ones.³⁹ The death rate from air pollution in Ukraine is 120 people per 100,000 population per year, and there is currently no disaggregation according to these data in Ukraine.

Water pollution. The main factors of anthropogenic pressure on surface water resources are still significant volumes of both water consumption in economic activities and discharges of polluted water, resulting in deteriorating sanitary and hygienic indicators of water quality, which degrades the quality of agricultural food and is therefore dangerous to health.

Lack of clean water complicates people's lives, especially that of women in rural areas. Due to the unequal distribution of household responsibilities, problems with access to water increase the amount of effort and time women spend on reproductive work. Which in turn reduces their ability to learn, develop themselves and engage in productive work. Thus, the deterioration of access to clean water has a negative effect on the economic opportunities of women, especially those living in rural areas.

Women are the main producers of agricultural products. Lack of vital resources, including water, means deterioration in the quality of life, financial losses and negative impact on physical and mental health.

37 Beijing +25: Parallel Report Ukraine 2014-2019. - <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/ukraine/15878.pdf>

38 Nieuwenhuijsen M.J. Environmental risk factors of pregnancy outcomes: a summary of recent meta-analyses of epidemiological studies. - <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1476-069X-12-6>

39 <https://www.sei.org/featured/5-ways-reducing-pollution-can-improve-equality-for-women/>

Soil pollution. The main soil contaminants are metals and their compounds, radioactive elements, as well as fertilisers and pesticides (chemicals used to control weeds). Some measures have been taken in Ukraine to reduce harmful industrial emissions into the environment, but these are not enough so far. Everyone should take care of the environment and one's own health. As part of the President's *Green Country*⁴⁰ programme, the largest tree planting campaign was held throughout Ukraine⁴¹ (about 3 million tree plants) together with the event "Planting trees by one million people for one day" within the global *Greening of the Planet* project.⁴² The *3R Initiative*⁴³ (Reducing, Reusing, Recycling) is already working for Ukrainians.

Ukraine has already joined the European Green Deal at the highest political level and vowed to synchronise its policies with the document's goals. These include planting of new forests as a powerful resource to fight climate change and prevent soil degradation, pollution, shallowing of rivers and desertification, and also ensure conservation of biodiversity. Women in Ukraine are actively engaged in the struggle for the preservation of the environment. The most promising projects involving women include environmental development initiatives, such as the creation of a convenient and transparent system for collecting, sorting and extending the life cycle of clothing, footwear and accessories to address the problem of textile waste accumulation. Similar initiative supports EcoHubs – spaces for collecting recyclable materials. Projects promoting waste separation, responsible consumption, and zero waste living are also underway. Real achievements can be observed in the field of biodiversity conservation, planting of forests, parks and squares, solving the problems of stray animals, and many others.⁴⁴

GENDER ASPECTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

*Gender aspects in the green transition*⁴⁵. Given the goal of achieving the Paris Agreement and the SDG targets, the issue of "green transition" is relevant for Ukraine to integrate women's experience, knowledge, capacities and strengths, and also to avoid the risk of increasing gender gaps between men and women in modern conditions and contexts of access to energy. It is therefore important to understand how women and men can benefit equally from such a transition.

The use of new technologies has a positive impact on both women and men, including through improved access to services and job creation. By mainstreaming gender in the implementation of new technologies, the energy transition will offer a unique opportunity to overcome the existing gender imbalance in Ukraine's energy sector.

The starting point of gender mainstreaming in energy efficiency⁴⁶ projects is to identify the roles and responsibilities of women and men as consumers of electricity in their communities for domestic, industrial and communal needs, and as potential actors – as workers, managers and owners – within the energy sector's value chains.

40 In 2022, it is planned to plant 300,732 million seedlings, 330,786 tree plants in 2023, and 336,482 in 2024 within the framework of the Green Country programme

41 Ukrainians across the country simultaneously planted trees as part of the President's Green Country programme, <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/38329.html>

42 Global environmental project "Greening of the Planet", <https://www.facebook.com/GreeningofthePlanet/>

43 The 3R Initiative, <https://www.env.go.jp/recycle/3r/en/outline.html>

44 Women who create new tomorrow. <https://www.yves-rocher.ua/actbeautiful/women-who-create-new-tomorrow>

45 Green transition means the shift from energy sources such as coal or natural gas to renewables. The energy transition ("Energiewende" in German) is the transition of several countries to sustainable economies through renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development

46 Energy efficiency is the use of fewer energy resources to provide the same or greater amount of services in economic and environmental ways, which mitigates the effects of climate change by reducing fossil fuel consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions

Achieving gender equality is key to increasing access to energy and reducing poverty. Currently, some groups of men and women in many regions of Ukraine do not have uninterrupted access to modern energy services.

Impact of war on energy security

The situation in Ukraine deteriorated during the first month of the Russia-Ukraine war. As of May 4, 815 settlements remain without electricity, more than 680 thousand consumers, and about 230 thousand consumers remain without gas. New energy infrastructure is being destroyed every day. At the same time, thousands of subscribers are restored every day to supply electricity and gas.⁴⁷ Currently, the government declares that no rise in energy prices for households is expected during the war period, and the mechanism of special obligations (SO) on the electricity market remains in force. Also, the connection of Ukraine's energy system to European grids on 16 March 2022 now allows receiving reserve electricity supplies from Europe. However, the country has to rebuild its previous energy supply system, and the upcoming heating season will be even more difficult. The review of subsidy programmes for energy access should take into account the gender perspective, thus, closing gender gaps and creating gender sensitive models to ensure universal access to sustainable energy.

According to the IAEA report⁴⁸, all four operational nuclear power plants (NPP) (Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytsky, South Ukraine and Rivne) continued operation since the beginning of the war. The radiation levels have remained within normal range and no radioactive releases have occurred that may impact the staff at the plants, the public or the environment. The situation in the area around the Chernobyl NPP site remains difficult, in part due to damaged bridges. Efforts are needed to restore safe and secure management of nuclear facilities at the Chernobyl NPP site and to better characterise the current radiological situation within the exclusion zone. The situation at Zaporizhzhya NPP continues to be challenging and requires continued attention owing to the presence of Russian forces. The safety and security of radioactive sources is a critical issue for Ukraine.

Gender aspect in energy consumption. "Energy poverty"⁴⁹ disproportionately affects women, while women-run households may have fewer resources to invest in sustainable solutions. This is a special type of poverty that both directly and indirectly affects various indicators of quality of life of women, who in Ukraine tend to take greater care of households compared to men and perform twice as much unpaid housework, including caring for children, doing laundry and cooking. A study found that, on average, men spend about 15 hours a week on household chores, while their female partners spend nearly twice as much time (29 hours) on these duties.⁵⁰

Older women are at higher risk of energy poverty due to their longer life expectancy and lower pensions. The majority of lower-income women-headed households are also at disproportionate risk of experiencing energy poverty. At the same time, men and women from certain social groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, individuals with low income due to unemployment, absence of breadwinners, physical disabilities, low vocational training, and the like; families with

47 http://mpe.kmu.gov.ua/minugol/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=245646974&cat_id=35109

48 <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/22/04/ukraine-report.pdf>

49 Energy poverty is a form of poverty associated with various adverse effects on human health and well-being, exacerbated by the lack of access to the essential energy services needed to ensure a decent standard of living and health – adequate heat, cooling, lighting, power supply. Energy poverty is caused by factors such as low energy efficiency of buildings, high energy prices that correlate with the level of people's income

50 Masculinity Today: Men's Attitudes to Gender Stereotypes and Violence against Women. UNFPA, 2018
https://ukraine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Masculinity%20Today%20Men%27s_Report.pdf

only one parent raising a child, migrants and refugees who lack the necessary resources as energy consumers can be extremely “vulnerable” and in need of protection, because the increase in energy poverty and the lack of awareness about the most adequate ways to prevent such vulnerabilities hinder the sustainable development of the energy market. It is important that the problem of energy poverty is not specific to Ukraine and is recognised even in the economically developed countries of the European Union.⁵¹ Thus, according to a survey conducted in the EU, in 2020, 8% of the EU population confirmed that they can not maintain sufficient heat in their homes. Thus, energy poverty remains a serious problem and rescuing vulnerable citizens from it is an urgent task for the EU and its members.⁵²

In Ukraine, the issue of a “vulnerable consumer” is still not legally regulated. The expert community calls for an assessment of the energy poverty situation, including the definition of its criteria for Ukraine and the gender-specific identification of social groups at risk of energy poverty. Subsidies in the form of targeted monetary support for energy consumers are insufficient, and funding has declined significantly in recent years.⁵³ Also, the programme of introducing energy efficiency measures on a national scale is not effective enough.

Measures that have been taken to renovate residential buildings, upgrade heating systems and electrical installations, and help large families pay their utility bills to improve the living conditions of individuals and housing associations are clearly insufficient. During 2020-2021, significant progress was observed in the work of the State Energy Efficiency Fund, which simplified its procedures for condominiums (OSBB),⁵⁴ although in practice only 10 of the 300 projects were implemented. At the same time, the government has critically limited funding for its “warm loans” programme, which, especially in a pandemic, should help citizens optimise their housing and utility costs through the introduction of energy efficiency measures.

Energy poverty is primarily about the ability of households to consume energy resources – that is, the ratio between the energy price growth and the growth of people’s income. Statistics show that women’s incomes are on average about 75-80% of men’s wages.⁵⁵ This is why there are significantly more women than men living in energy poverty due to lower wages, which means that they lack the financial means to invest in new technologies for the green transition. Energy poverty is affected by the fact that women and men have different energy needs. Household energy consumption patterns are different for men and women:

- In family households, women spend more time on unpaid, energy-intensive household chores, such as cooking and laundry, so they are more dependent on energy to use household appliances.
- On the other hand, men consume more energy, and this is mainly due to transport and eating outside the home.

51 Energy poverty in Ukraine and the UE: how to harmonise policies and approaches, <https://uacrisis.org/uk/podii/70723-anons-kruglij-stil-na-temu-energetichna-bidnist-v-ukrayini-ta-yes-yak-garmonizuvati-pidhodi-ta-politiku>

52 Energy poverty. The EU is committed to tackling energy poverty and to the protection of vulnerable consumers. https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/energy-consumer-rights/energy-poverty_en

53 According to official data, the funds allocated by the government for subsidies almost halved since 2018 – from UAH 71 billion to 55 billion in 2019, UAH 39.3 billion in 2020, UAH 36.6 billion in 2021. Expenditures on benefits and housing subsidies in the state budget for 2022 are set at UAH 38.4 billion

54 Ukrainian term for condominium associations

55 State Statistics Service of Ukraine <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua>

Also, the way energy is received and used is not neutral in terms of its impact. Access to electricity can have positive impacts on various social and economic aspects of women's lives, including improved equality, as access to electricity provides home lighting and extra study hours, while street lighting improves the safety of women and children. Electrical appliances also reduce the amount of time spent on household chores, while Internet access and mobile phones offer more business opportunities and greater access to information.

The contribution of district heating to climate change mitigation. For Ukraine's population, which has become vulnerable as a result of economic transformations, meeting basic heating needs is becoming increasingly difficult. Low-income households tend to spend a higher percentage of their income on heating than higher-income groups. They are more likely to live in less energy-efficient housing because they cannot afford upgrades that would improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and they may not be aware of such options.

Women-run households tend to be closer to the poverty line, further highlighting the importance of assessing gender differences in access to district heating services in terms of well-being and social inclusion.

Quite often, consumers have only limited control over the temperature and amount of heat supplied (e.g., by using thermostats). Energy metering is also limited, and most consumers receive heat bills based on a single heating tariff, regardless of actual consumption.

Renewable energy (RES) development and gender imbalance. The development of the renewable energy sector (RES) and the introduction of new technologies creates new employment opportunities. Ukraine's energy sector is dominated by occupations traditionally favoured by men, but inclusive policies and gender equality measures can let women gain equal access and benefit from participation in the renewable energy sector. Women have new opportunities for entrepreneurship and participation in decision-making.

The lack of information and statistics on women's involvement in the renewables sector development prevents proper analysis of the factors that create certain barriers to entry and career advancement, while the lack of gender responsive policies in the energy sector can be considered a key barrier to women's employment, equalisation of salaries, participation in decision-making and holding managerial positions, adaptation of training and advanced training programmes in the RES sector.

According to the *International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)*,⁵⁶ the number of women employed in the renewable energy sector is 32%, which is much higher than in the global oil and gas industry (22%). At the same time, women's participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in the renewable energy sector is much lower than in management. Society has high hopes for scientific discoveries in the field of STEM, as they are able to solve most of the existing problems, including those related to climate change and environmental pollution. Therefore, professional training of women is extremely important, especially in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This is also important given the fact that most renewable energy jobs are highly skilled in nature, requiring STEM knowledge. The National Science Foundation estimates that 80 percent of the jobs created in the next decade will require STEM skills.

56 IRENA, *Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective*, https://irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2019/Jan/IRENA_Gender_perspective_2019.pdf

The transition from fossil fuels and the use of renewables requires in-depth training and professional development. Women are not sufficiently involved in traditional "green" jobs, including in RES, environmental research and energy saving, as well as decision-making. The UN Global Compact in Ukraine has published a list of "green" professions⁵⁷ that are already popular or will soon become so. These are *city farmers, climate change specialists, renewable energy engineers, green transport engineers, "green" builders, waste recycling specialists, sustainable development specialists, and water quality technicians*.

At the same time, the RES sector lacks the capacity to attract more women, as they need more in-depth training in STEM disciplines. Women have a significantly higher proportion of those with non-core education in their current jobs than men. Women are often in low-skilled and non-technical jobs in the energy sector; they are underrepresented in energy management positions.⁵⁸ If appropriate STEM certification and training programs are not implemented, women are more likely to be employed in simple, temporary jobs, such as assistants and support staff.

Transformation of Ukraine's coal regions and gender context. The phasing out of coal is a global trend aimed at decarbonising the economy / energy sector.⁵⁹ Social protection and the recovery of the local economies are the main challenges for just transition. In Ukraine, the coal industry has recently been underfunded and women and children are held hostage to the non-payment of miners' wages, as the only source of their income is a husband's salary. Abandoning coal would mean the loss of 55 thousand jobs in the mining and electricity sectors. At the same time, the energy transition offers the opportunities for creating three times more new jobs (about 160 thousand) in modern industries, such as photovoltaic, biomass and wind turbine equipment.

Currently, the policy of reconversion of Ukraine's coal regions is not gender responsive, focusing solely on the employment aspects. These obstacles to women's full participation are, first and foremost, a violation of human rights, in particular the right of women to full and equal participation in their communities. Therefore, the government should commit to eliminating discrimination against women and creating a framework that will help empower women and ensure their rights. It is important to mainstream gender aspects in the formulation and implementation of regional development strategies, as such projects have largely failed to include gender components.⁶⁰ The ILO's recommendations on gender mainstreaming in the green sectors⁶¹ need to be taken into account and all measures taken to ensure that pre-existing gender inequalities are not transferred to the emerging green economy. Therefore, it is necessary to provide comprehensive support to ensure equal access to "green" jobs.

57 Top 8 "green" professions of the future, <https://landlord.ua/news/top-8-zelenykh-profesii-aibutnoho/>

58 Draft Resolution "On approval of the State Strategy for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men until 2030", <https://www.msp.gov.ua/projects/709/>

59 To curb the rise in average global temperature of 1.5°C, all of the world's coal-fired power plants must shut down. Refusal to use coal in the power industry means its replacement by other types of generation

60 Sustainable development platform. In May 2019, the mayors of six coal mono-cities in the Donetsk region, three oblast NGOs and the Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry merged into the Sustainable Development Platform of Coal Cities. Currently, the Platform includes nine cities. <https://justtransition.org.ua/>

61 Gender Equality and Green Jobs. ILO https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_360572.pdf



Agricultural sector

In agriculture, there are significant gender gaps. The rural population of Ukraine is dominated by women, who are the main producers of agricultural products. The average wage of men in agriculture is 20% higher than that of women.

Women play a critical role in informal agricultural activities and run households, which has an impact on GDP. Yet they describe themselves as unemployed. Also, they often have seasonal or part-time jobs. At the same time, rural areas are crucial for achieving Ukraine's Sustainable Development Goal 8 – to ensure employment of 70% of the population aged 20–64 by 2030.

The share of women involved in agriculture is suboptimal.⁶² Only 18% of farms are headed by women, and they have 15% of the land area, meaning that the average size of their farms is smaller. The level of profitability of agricultural activity in these farms is 29.8%, in contrast to 32.8% in men-headed farms. Also, women-headed farms involved in the livestock sector have a negative profitability (-0.6%). At the same time, farms managed by women received 24% of the funds as government subsidies and from value added tax.⁶³

Only 20.5% of the total number of farms are headed by women; the share of women heading family farms is only 10%. Women predominantly own farms without clear specialisation and of smaller size. In small farms, women tend to work as producers at the bottom of the chain.

In the agricultural sector, women tend to adopt more sustainable farming practices, but current funding schemes do not meet their needs and do not exploit their full potential, still maintaining a "patriarchal" model. Because women are less likely to own the land which they work on, they are often not involved in decision-making.

As for agricultural cooperatives, only one-third of them have received government support under the Ministry of Agriculture's programmes, highlighting the need to promote women's activities in the agro-industrial sector and encourage them to actively participate in agricultural entrepreneurship.

ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION

As of April 2021, 47% of the European Parliament's Committee on Environment were women, and only 30% of EU member states' environment ministers are women. Among the climate diplomats that the EU delegates to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the largest global environmental meeting, 41% of delegates were women in 2019, and only 35% in 2015, when the Paris Agreement was signed. An analysis by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO⁶⁴) shows that women are less represented at important decision-making meetings.

62 <https://minagro.gov.ua/news/gendernij-aspekt-vidigraye-znachnu-rol-u-bud-yakomu-ekonomichnomu-procesi-zokrema-j-v-rozvitku-apk-olena-kovalova>

63 Розширення прав та можливостей сільських жінок. http://wicc.net.ua/media/rozshyrennia_prav_ta_mozhlyvostej_silskyh_zhinok.pdf

64 Women's environmental and development organization, <https://wedo.org/>

In Ukraine, only in 2020, Olha Buslavets became the first ever female Minister of Energy and Environmental Protection. However, there are only 4 women among the 18 members of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management.⁶⁵



GENDER POLICY IN COMMUNITIES

The formation of a lifestyle friendly to the environment with its prioritisation of environmental values is one of the key approaches to the development of modern society, focused on environmental values and their practical realisation in everyday life. In Ukraine, women and men are concerned that environmental measures increase the pressure on their daily lives, and that the additional costs of the environment increase its value. However, given the effect of consuming healthy food (reducing health costs), the benefits of a better environment, clean air and water, are increasingly valued.

Non-governmental organisations of Ukraine (NGOs) engaged with environmental issues, climate change and green transition, more often consider the gender aspects of these processes, although most of these issues are widely considered gender neutral. It is NGOs, especially those associated with international institutions, that pursue gender mainstreaming, including the following:

- Ensure the representation of women and men in decision-making at all levels (national, regional) regarding environmental protection, climate change mitigation and clean energy transition.
- Introduce the basis in all policies and strategies for ensuring equal rights of men and women to enjoy equal opportunities in the process of environmental measures and "green" transition.
- Monitor the impact of social, economic and technological decisions on the state of women and men, their income and access to resources.
- Provide training sessions and workshops, raise awareness of women and men about their rights, make them familiar with environmentally friendly technologies, and help acquire skills that can be used to reduce the impact of climate change.

NGOs support energy planning and community development by focusing on women's empowerment in the implementation process and focusing on the role of female decision-makers in implementing community energy and climate change policies at the regional level. The organisation of dedicated energy and climate planning programmes⁶⁶ can be a good example, as they cover technical, financial and legal issues in the field of energy and climate change, including gender mainstreaming.

65 The Verkhovna Rada Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/site2/p_komity_list?pidid=3006

66 The online course "Women's leadership in the development of communities' energy potential" was developed within the project "Energy Resilience of Communities and Support for Women's Leadership" implemented by the NGO "Expert Centre for Security Ukraine", funded by the USAID Energy Security Project (ESP), https://courses.prometheus.org.ua/courses/course-v1:Prometheus+WL101+2021_T2/about.

Pilot community-based projects⁶⁷ on gender responsive energy and climate policy, which also include analysis of the roles and representation of women and men in energy sustainability (energy efficiency, climate change mitigation), can be considered promising, which confirms their relevance in modern challenges of regional development.

The main tasks include public control over the observance of environmental, climate change and green transition legislation; practical activities to address environmental issues; dissemination of information on climate change threats and benefits of green transition; and public education work to develop ecological consciousness in people and set up the basis for balanced (sustainable) development in Ukraine.

One can hardly overestimate the role of NGOs in the field of environment, climate change and green transition. Despite the fact that the authorities do not always recognise their suggestions and comments, these organisations can still disseminate useful comprehensive information and widely cover certain issues, thanks to their experience and representation at all levels. Environmental knowledge is also shared through the dissemination of various tips and facts by NGOs in social media, explaining how certain actions can harm the environment and how simple things may save it.

NGO participation in the development of government programmes and discussions of legislative initiatives helps improve the quality of these documents by taking into account the needs and demands of society, as well as increase probability of support and assistance for their implementation (also through activities that the government is unable to implement given the lack of funding and lack of trust).

Because of proper NGO and government cooperation, non-governmental organisations can also mediate and advise on the implementation of public policies, and sometimes monitor their implementation, avoiding negative political consequences.

67 Conducting a gender analysis of the city energy and climate policy of the Zhytomyr city community within the programme "Municipal Energy Plan of the Zhytomyr City Territorial Community for 2021-2024", <https://gurt.org.ua/vacancies/70145/>

III

SOCIOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF GENDER ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION





The goal of the survey is the assessment of ecological situation and the level of concern with environmental problems among the citizens of Ukraine.

Socio-demographic portrait of respondents. The study was carried out in all regions of Ukraine in urban and rural areas, excluding Crimea and the occupied areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, using a formalised face-to-face interview. 2,018 citizens of Ukraine aged 18+ were interviewed, including 1,089 women and 929 men. The benchmark for the selection of demographic characteristics were the documents of state statistics that helped formulate a representative sample.

Significance of environmental issues. Ukrainian citizens of both sexes admit that environmental problems are already affecting their lives. Women and men have a consensual view of the importance of environmental issues, which confirms their concern for the environment, although women are more likely to express their concern compared to men (55.8% and 49.4%, respectively). 76.8%, women and 71.2% of men agree that climate change is a threat to human life.

Older (55.8%) and middle-aged men (53.5%) are the most concerned about the state of the environment, compared to their younger compatriots (45.7%). Among women, there are no statistically significant differences between age groups. The main differences between women and men in assessing environmental issues are due to differences between young men under 35 (45.7%) and young women (54.5%).

Environmental problems are of greater concern to urban residents than to rural residents. This concern is most seen among those who live in urban industrial centres with high levels of pollution (58.1%) and well-off individuals (67.4%). Moreover, wealthy men and women are more likely to consider environmental problems "very important" (67.4%) compared to poorer groups (49-53%).

Assessments of the importance of environmental issues have a strong regional aspect. The worse the environment in the area of respondents' residence is, the more important environmental issues are. Residents of western regions assess the environment in their areas better than in other regions, and women's assessment of the significance of environmental problems does not differ statistically from men's assessments (38.4% and 39.1%, respectively). In all other regions, women are generally more concerned with the environment than men. Also, people in western Ukraine are less concerned about most problems than residents of other regions (one of the few exceptions is the problem of deforestation – its significance is equally high across all regions). Also, people in the West are less likely (47.0%) than residents of other regions (55% to 59%) to mention the impact of environmental problems on their own lives.

Age and education also influence the level of environmental consciousness. 81.0% of respondents believe that everyone can help improve the ecological situation. Members of the younger age group (18-35 years) can be described as more environmentally conscious (83.6% vs 78.5% of those aged 56+). The same is true for men and women with higher or incomplete higher education (83.8%), if compared to respondents with secondary or incomplete secondary education (75.1%). Only 13.9% of respondents hope that environmental problems will eventually resolve themselves.

68 The survey was carried out on 3-8 December 2021 in all regions of Ukraine, excluding Crimea and the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. 2,018 respondents aged 18+ were interviewed. Theoretical sample error does not exceed 2.3%

The main problems of the environment. When assessing the degree of concern about environmental issues on a five-point scale, Ukrainians rank most of them rather highly. Citizens are most concerned about the purity of drinking water (4.6 points), anthropogenic pollution of rivers and groundwater (4.5 points) and ecological purity of food (4.5 points). Concerns about deforestation, landfills, man-caused pollution of soil, ecological cleanness of leisure areas scored 4.4 points. Waste recycling had 4.3 points; technogenic pollution of air and landscaping – 4.2 points; climate change, radiation pollution and control of greenhouse gas emissions – 4.1 points. Citizens are least concerned about noise pollution (3.9 points) and wildlife hunting (3.9 points), though even 3.9 points out of 5 possible points is a rather high score.

Assessment of air pollution. No significant differences were found in the women and men's assessments of air pollution. The dependence is determined by the type of settlement, as well as the region of residence. Among those who believe that air pollution in their areas is such that it makes living dangerous, the vast majority (75.5%) consider environmental issues to be very important, while among those who think that the air in their location is clean, only 42.8% are concerned about the environment. Urban residents assess air condition much worse than those who live in rural areas. More specifically, 6.6% of urban residents feel that the level of air pollution is life-threatening, while only 0.8% of rural residents share their opinion. It is in the cities that the level of air pollution is such that it makes living dangerous. Women and men in the eastern region are the most pessimistic about the level of air pollution, while Ukrainians living in the western region give the highest assessment – as many as 30.2% believe that the air in their location is clean.

Access to clean drinking water. Access to clean drinking water is one of the most acute problems. In Ukraine, clean water is inaccessible for 15% of women and 14% of men. The largest share of citizens having problems with water is concentrated in cities (5.6% of urban residents and 1.4% of rural residents do not have access to drinking water). There are no statistically significant differences between women and men's assessments in both urban and rural areas.

Age and financial status (wealth) are the main determinants of access to clean water. With age, citizens have increasingly less access. Older women face the biggest obstacles to accessing clean water. 48% of men and women under 35, and 37% aged 55+ always have access to drinking water; 11.7% and 18.7% of the respective age groups do not have such access.

The water situation improves with higher income levels. The share of those who always have access to clean water increases from 37% among those who "barely make ends meet", to 55% among those who "live well". Also, the share of those who almost never or never have access to water falls from 28% to 14%. There are no statistically significant gender differences by wealth.

The regional section reveals the existing differences in access to clean water. The best situation is in the western region, where they declare the absence of problems with drinking water. 52% of this region's residents always have access to clean drinking water. In other regions of Ukraine, 34% to 46% have such uninterrupted access. In the East, 10.4% of citizens do not have access to clean water.

Assessments of the quality of drinking water and air pollution are interrelated. Thus, 68.5% of those who live in areas with clean air always have access to clean drinking water. In the meantime, clean water is always accessible for only 37.6% of those who live in areas with high air pollution, which makes living dangerous. In addition to having bad air, 4.1% of men and 4.4% of women reported never or hardly ever having access to drinking water.

Consumption. The vast majority of respondents believe that the ongoing climate change is a threat to human life. Most citizens (61.2%) see environmental problems as already affecting their lives and believe that people should limit their consumption in order to save the planet. 81.2% of surveyed men and women believe that manufacturers and service providers should do what they are doing in a more environmentally friendly way.

Responsibility for the environment. Respondents of both genders are almost equally inclined to place the greatest responsibility for the environment on the state (63.5%) and local authorities (47.1%), then on businesses (30.8%) and on every individual (29.7%). Environmental problems in the country are less dependent on low living standards (18.2%), inadequate budget funding for the environmental sector (18.0%), ineffective work of environmental organisations (15.2%), lack of environmental education (11.5%), and low quality of environment-related information campaigns (7.6%). The survey found no statistically significant differences between men and women in answering this question.

Respondents' education correlates with an increased level of personal responsibility. Only 21% of citizens with secondary or incomplete secondary education place the responsibility for the environment on people themselves, but this share increases to 36% of those with higher or incomplete higher education.

Participation in environmentally oriented public activity. Participation in various ecological activities is not widespread in Ukraine. Only 3% of women and 2% of men regularly participate in public activities related to environmental protection, climate change and the like. 77% of women and 80% of men do not participate in any environment-specific public events.

People's public position depends on age, education and well-being. Representatives of the middle age group (36-55 years old), people with high educational and material level tend to be somewhat more active. The higher the level of citizens' well-being is, the more likely they are to get involved in public activities – the share of those involved in environment-related activities increases from 8.8% among those who "barely make ends meet" to 15.7% among those who "live well".

29% of men and 21% of women said that nothing could motivate them to take part in ecological or environmental protection activities. Men are somewhat more likely to consider such activities unnecessary (16.6% vs 11.8% of women); this perception is also more widespread in rural areas (17.7% vs 12.2% of urban residents) and among Ukrainians with secondary or incomplete secondary education (18.1%).

The decision to engage in environmental protection could be influenced only by major deterioration of the environmental situation near the respondents' place of residence. In this case, men would be more active than women. For men and women alike, the main reasons for non-participation in public activities include the lack of free time (27.5%) and the lack of charismatic leaders of the environmental movement.

The better the assessment of the environment in the area of respondents (both men and women) residence is, the higher is the likelihood of them considering this activity unimportant or unnecessary. For example, only 6.8% do not consider environmental activity important or necessary among respondents who believe that the level of air pollution in their area makes living dangerous, but their share increases to 26.7% among those who believe that the air in their area is clean.

Environmentally conscious behaviour. Women are more likely than men to exhibit "environmentally conscious" behaviours that are traditionally associated with activities that women are more likely to engage in or with a lifestyle that is more typical of women. Unlike men, women would rather refuse

to use plastic bags;⁶⁹ buy more eco-friendly home care products; refuse to buy products tested on animals; prefer organic products; when buying plastic items, prefer those made of recyclable or biodegradable plastic, or buy goods made of recycled plastic, wood, metal, paper; choose products with minimal packaging; refuse to use disposable utensils.

At the same time, "environmentally conscious" actions by women, such as preferring things with longer life; refusing to buy products made of animal fur; saving water, heating and electricity are in fact steps that save money in the first place. Thus, it is "economic motivation" that becomes important in shaping "environmentally conscious" behaviour. This behaviour is therefore more common among low-income women and men. Since older people also have lower incomes, they are also more likely to exhibit such behaviour. This is particularly true for older women, whose numbers exceed those of older men, and whose incomes are even lower than men's. Although in situations where "environmentally conscious" behaviour is, on the contrary, associated with certain additional costs (even if they are compensated in the future), it is more common in people with higher incomes. "Economically unmotivated" types of "environmentally conscious" behaviour are very uncommon in Ukrainian society, and this behaviour is characteristic of both genders.

To some extent, an additional incentive for "environmentally conscious" behaviour is its health benefits, as well as charitable motives, when used things are donated to others.

Mobility. To date, neither men nor women are ready to give up travelling in their own cars in favour of public transport. More men (57%) than women (50%) say they are not prepared to swap their cars for public transport. Among those who own a car, only 12% of women and 8.5% of men are definitely ready to give up using it. Citizens with high-income (68.5%) are not ready to give up using their cars. The main precondition for people to refuse using own cars is the proper organisation and operation of public transport in cities and villages of Ukraine.

The use of eco-friendly transport, in particular EVs, is becoming increasingly attractive. Men are more willing to use taxis with electric motors than women. For example, 30% of men and 28% of women would prefer to travel in an electric taxi (even if it is more expensive to travel by electric car than by taxi with a traditional internal combustion engine). Most respondents, however, do not care about the type of car engine.

Waste separation. When speaking about "environmentally conscious" behaviours, which by themselves have no direct financial or health benefits, respondents typically mention recycling and waste separation. 23% of men and women always or almost always separate hazardous waste (batteries, LED lamps, mercury thermometers, household chemicals, etc.) in specialised sites; 20% do not throw away old clothes but give them to others or recycle; 14.8% separate their waste.

The share of those who in most cases separate waste is slightly higher among women than men (30.4% and 25.9%, respectively). Waste separation is the most widespread in the West (38.4%) and Centre (32.7%) regions, and somewhat less popular in the South (23.2%) and East (15.5%). Waste separation habits are more common in women. For 17.1% of men and 10.6% of women, the reason for not separating waste is that it is not a priority for them. The lack of sorting practices is primarily due to the absence of collection points nearby. Women are more likely than men to express their willingness to separate waste if there are special waste bins or recycling points near their places – 75.7% of them would definitely or most likely separate waste, compared to 64.7% of men.

69 Free distribution of plastic bags in Ukraine was banned only since 10 December 2021, that is, after the completion of this survey

The practice of dumping separated waste into special containers near the house is much more widespread among urban residents because such containers are more broadly available in the cities compared to villages. As a result, rural residents are much more likely to take their waste to distant collection points or use paid waste removal services. This means that rural communities need better provision of containers for separated waste collection.



EXPERT OPINIONS⁷⁰

Differences in environmental consciousness. Experts unanimously agree that environmental issues equally affect women and men. However, there are some differences in the level of environmental consciousness between women and men in Ukraine, as indicated by the results of previous studies.⁷¹

Main environmental problems. For the Ukrainian people, environmental conservation is a very important issue. The main environmental problems include air pollution caused by industrial emissions, man-caused pollution of rivers and groundwater, deforestation, air pollution from motor vehicles, landfill problems (location, liquidation, etc.), and climate change.

Access to clean drinking water is another urgent problem for Ukraine. It is equally important for women and men, although access to drinking water becomes increasingly burning for women living in rural areas, especially given the consequences of the gradual drying of wells and groundwater pollution that has been recently taking place in Ukraine. Drying wells and groundwater pollution directly affects household activities, such as limited opportunities to irrigate vegetable gardens and homestead plots – people have to transport water over long distances or carry it from remote wells. Drinking water of poor quality affects human health and produces negative economic consequences – the need to treat diseases, buy purified water or pay for its delivery, spend additional money on food if the household cannot grow it, and so on.

Efforts of the central and local authorities to reduce the negative impact of drying wells and groundwater pollution on women have been found insufficient. To reduce the negative impact of this problem on women, the government needs to adopt an appropriate State Programme, while local authorities should develop relevant water management programmes and impose stricter penalties on polluting enterprises and businesses.

Participation in decision-making. The idea that state and management decisions in environmental protection are more often made by men, but women are more likely to be affected by these decisions, does not receive unequivocal expert support. Instead, there is a widespread opinion that women are also well-represented among the environmental decision-makers, and that consequences of these decisions equally affect men and women, regardless of who makes them, because everyone has to live under the same conditions. This indicates the lack of gender sensitivity among the expert cohort. Until the appointment of Ms Buslavets in 2020, all previous ministers of energy and environmental protection in Ukraine were men. However, only 4 of 18 members of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management are women.

Waste separation. The main reasons why a significant number of Ukrainians do not separate their waste include the lack of properly organised collection points near their places with a simple

⁷⁰ Expert survey was carried out from 25 January through 7 February 2022, involving 52 experts – officials from the government ministries, local authorities and local self-governments, NGO representatives

⁷¹ Results of the sociological survey by the Ukrainian Climate Network, <https://ucn.org.ua/?p=8185>

“from household to recycler” system; the lack of confidence that separated waste will be properly disposed of because of no separate waste collection system; and the lack of information on how to sort waste, as well as doubts about this problem being truly relevant for Ukraine in the economic crisis.

Incentives that should be introduced to encourage men to sort waste include the expansion of networks of recycling points, the introduction of sufficiently high motivating reward for the collection and delivery of recyclable waste, reduction of tariffs for municipal solid waste removal if waste is properly separated.

Incentives that should be introduced to encourage women to sort waste include the introduction of sufficiently high motivating reward for the collection and delivery of recyclable waste, organisation of an ongoing public information campaign on the benefits of waste separation, reduction of tariffs for municipal solid waste removal if waste is properly separated. Another effective incentive to encourage women to separate waste is to introduce discount vouchers for purchases after collection of recyclable materials. This approach is another evidence of gender bias in society towards the distribution of reproductive labour.

Mobility. Women are more likely to use public transport than men.

Government actions that may be most effective in encouraging women who own cars to use public transport include the introduction of mechanisms for reliable, fast and smooth public transport, including round-the-clock routes, while ensuring the safety of women; promotion of the use of alternative transport (electric scooters, bicycles, etc. with construction of zones / lanes for their use); promotion of car sharing, taxi sharing, corporate transport. In addition, it is important for women to create conditions for micro-mobility (convenient walks around the city) and green corridors.

As for men, the most effective means of encouraging their use of public transport experts call the promotion of the use of alternative transport, followed by the introduction of mechanisms for reliable, fast and smooth public transport, including round-the-clock routes. It would be also expedient to expand ecological zones in cities, introduce closed zones and tolls.

The mechanisms for persuading people to use public transport more actively are the same for women and men – to ensure reliable, fast and smooth operation, to improve the quality of transport, and to ensure its affordability.

Gender impact of the transition from district to individual heating. The possible shift from centralised to individual heating will hardly affect women in the near future, because individual heating is not widespread in the cities, especially in multi-storey apartment buildings that lack necessary technical conditions. For the rural population and people living in small house suburbs, individual heating is the norm.

Fossil fuel phase-out. The programme of transforming the development model for regions affected by fossil fuel divestment processes (liquidation of production facilities, closure of coal mines, etc.) does not take into account the different negative impacts of business closures on women and men. Additional consideration should be given to the need to create new jobs and develop the employment programmes for women and men.

Gender mainstreaming in law-making. Regulatory and legal documents regulating the problems of ecology, environmental protection and green transition do not take into account gender aspects and are “gender blind”.

Competences. The expert community confirms the need for additional knowledge and skills to eliminate gender gaps in environmental protection and green transition, including additional skills for data collection disaggregated by sex (26.8%), for studying factors that determine environmental behaviour of women and men (53.8%), and for involvement of women in decision-making (28.8%).

Data disaggregation. Collection and generalisation of data on ecology, environmental protection and green transition is mostly carried out without gender disaggregation. The reason for that is the lack of competencies and needs. In addition, data disaggregation by sex is a somewhat narrower concept than gender statistics, as the methods used are not designed to reflect gender roles, relations and unequal opportunities in society. Relevant concepts and methods are currently being developed. To improve the data collection system, it is expedient to design online survey forms and involve the public in data collection in certain situations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The conclusions and recommendations of this research summarise the identified gender gaps in environmental protection and climate change. In most cases, identified gaps refer to current national policies, the level of ecological awareness of women and men, and subsequently in following environmentally friendly practices. The recommendations are structured by topic and can be integrated into strategies, action plans, development programs, and other documents at the national and local levels. CSOs working on environmental protection and climate change can also use the recommendations to integrate the gender perspective into their projects.

GENDER EQUALITY IS RECOGNIZED AS A CRITICAL ISSUE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The gender component is integrated into the majority of international, including pan-European, strategic and framework documents on environmental protection and climate change: recognizing the disproportionate impact of different environmental issues on women's well-being and health, identifying different needs of women and men, girls and boys from various population groups in adapting to the consequences of environmental problems and climate change, highlighting the role and contribution of women in the fight against climate. Although Ukraine took commitment under most international documents, the part of gender blind national strategic documents regulating the field of environmental protection remains high. Officials at all levels of decision-making in this area need to identify the extent of existing gender gaps – unequal distribution of reproductive work, under-representation of women in decision-making, gender pay gap - and focus current and future regulatory documents on closing these gaps.

TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, IT IS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT A GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT,

taking into account the composition of the population that experiences the consequences of a particular problem. The impact assessment should be conducted with the obligatory observance of intersectionality principles – in addition to sex, age, health status, cultural and religious traditions, and other factors should be considered. This approach will allow identifying individual needs more accurately and developing measures that will effectively mitigate the negative impact. A crucial component of the comprehensive assessment is the availability of sex-disaggregated data. Although the data collection system in environmental protection has improved in recent years, it still does not contain enough indicators to help identify gender gaps and the needs of women and men from various population groups.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING OBJECTS THAT IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT, SHOULD INCLUDE A GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

Military actions on Ukraine's territory, caused by the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, continue to cause damage to the environment: pollution of air, water, and soil with fuel and other petroleum products and remnants of military equipment; explosive objects; chemical pollution from shelling and missiles; fires in ecosystems and destruction of biodiversity. An accurate assessment will be conducted after the end of active combat, but recovery work already goes on in the liberated areas. It is crucial to implement programs to eliminate the consequences of active combat and infrastructural and environmental recovery considering gender perspective. Identifying individual needs and composition of the population, ensuring

the representation of women and men, girls, and boys from various groups of people, who will be involved in the decision-making process on the elimination of consequences and immediate reconstruction, and who will be involved in the development of the region, will contribute to sustainable development and gender equality at the community level.

THE GREEN TRANSITION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR AND THE JUST TRANSFORMATION OF CITIES DEPENDENT ON THE COAL INDUSTRY and other environmentally "dirty" industries remain gender-neutral. As such transformations usually mean changes in the number of workplaces, the introduction of new technologies and work conditions, and in some cases, additional financial costs for the population, it is necessary to understand how many women and men will be affected. To reduce the potential negative impact and to promote a fair distribution of resources, more women need to be involved in the development of environmental and climate change sectors; it is critical to involve them in decision-making processes and create favourable conditions for career advancement. At the same time, it is necessary to improve the access of girls and women to STEM professions, which are still traditionally considered so-called "male" industries due to gender stereotypes in society.

WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO LEAD AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE. Irresponsible consumption and environmentally unfriendly behavior become an increasing obstacle to achieving sustainable development. So far, women are more likely than men to choose environmentally friendly practices: refusing plastic bags and disposable tableware, selecting products with less packaging and less harmful products for households. It happens primarily due to the unequal distribution of domestic responsibilities and unpaid reproductive work traditionally performed by women; thus, raising awareness of responsible consumption among men is closely related to changing social norms towards gender equality. Older adults, in most cases, have a less environmentally friendly lifestyle, except for the situations when these practices help save money, such as the usage of LED light bulbs. Overall, all women and men, including the elderly, in most cases turn off the lights in rooms, reduce heating, when possible, turn off the water while brushing teeth. Despite the roots of this habit, reducing resource consumption is an example of environmentally friendly practices and can be used as a foundation for raising awareness among women and men from various population groups. Women and men are not ready to abandon private vehicles for public transport. They are not ready to abandon the internal combustion engines for the electric ones in case of choosing a taxi service, even with improved infrastructure, reduced waiting time, and lower prices. Therefore, these factors are necessary but not decisive for changing usage habits to more sustainable ones. Communication campaigns are needed for awareness-raising among women and men about the dangers of climate change and increasing environmental consciousness.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS ON THE EXISTENCE OF ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER HAVE NOT GIVEN UNAMBIGUOUS RESULTS. The vast majority of citizens believe that they have permanent access to clean drinking water. At the same time, residents of rural areas more often confirmed the existence of such access. Considering groundwater pollution, lack of centralised water supply, and somewhere irregular water supply by trucks in rural areas,

received answers need further verification. In-depth research on access to clean drinking water is required to understand how citizens perceive it to be clean and drinkable and which access format is permanent. Furthermore, field sampling of water and study on water access, especially for women, is needed to verify public opinion survey responses.

THE STUDY REVEALED A LACK OF AWARENESS OF GENDER ISSUES AMONG ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE STUDY. Most women and men in the expert cohort deny the different levels of ecological consciousness and the gender-based difference in the impact of environmental issues. Among those who agree with a difference in effects, most experts acknowledge it only in different physiological consequences. Experts often use existing gender stereotypes in their responses. Raising awareness work on gender sensitization is necessary among environmental protection stakeholders, as the gender blindness of regulatory documents threatens to widen gender gaps further. In most cases, experts had trouble answering whether gender perspective is integrated into strategic national documents, and they confirmed the need to increase their competencies on gender equality in environmental protection and climate change.

