SEI Stockholm Environment Institute

Gender, Environment, and Development

Overview

The Gender, Environment, and Development (GED) cluster at SEI Asia advances gender and social equality in the context of environment, development, and sustainability.

Our diverse team conducts high-quality research, using current and emerging theories and methodologies, to drive responsive and transformative change in policies and practices. Working in close collaboration with partners, including civil society, government, academia, and international organizations, we generate evidence-based knowledge to shape agendas and enhance inclusive decision-making and investments in gender and social equality.

Complementing this, the GED team works with partners to develop strategies and build capacities and plans for integration of gender equality and social inclusion in research programmes.

Areas of focus

Climate change, including governance and financing: We generate intersectional insights into gender and climate-related patterns, outcomes, challenges and opportunities. These inform policy and programming up to the regional and United Nations-level relating to inclusive climate-related policies, processes and decision making as well as financing.

Migration and displacement: We analyze gendered and social drivers and impacts at the nexus of climate change and mobility, particularly in sectors employing migrant workers. This research informs policies and programs related to green transitions and the bioeconomy.

Disaster risk reduction: We elucidate relationships between inequities, hazards, and disaster, including experiences and drivers of 'maldevelopment'. Our recommendations contribute to strengthening gender and social inclusion in disaster risk reduction approaches and policies.

Environmental protection, livelihoods, and justice: Using gender and rights-based approaches, we undertake collaborative research and network strengthening with local communities and civil society to examine barriers and opportunities for inclusive and just environmental protection. This includes a focus on addressing systemic risks faced by environmental defenders, especially women and Indigenous peoples.

Natural resources, energy, food systems, and bioeconomy: We elucidate dynamics and outcomes around gender and social equity related to land, water, forests, and coastal resources management and governance. Our work highlights environmental risks, inequities, and opportunities associated with different development policies and pathways in rural and urban areas, promoting sustainable and nature-based economic and energy transitions.

Approaches, integration, and data: We offer informed guidance to national and international funding and development agencies to help crystalise their engagement with critical gender and social issues and integrate gender transformative and human rights-based approaches into their strategies and work. We also collaborate to close gender data gaps and develop gender-informed platforms and tools.

IMAGE by billow926 from Unsplash

Research and integration initiatives

State of gender equality and climate change in ASEAN: Collaborating with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and United Nations agencies to enhance gender equality in climate-related policies and actions in the ASEAN region.

Climate change, environmental degradation and international labour migration: Investigating the connections between the bioeconomy and international labor migration in Asia, as well as the interlinkages between extreme weather events, natural resource management, and human mobility in the Mekong Region.

Building resilience through inclusive and climate-adaptive disaster risk reduction in Asia-Pacific: Developing frameworks, such as the Framework for Integrating Rights and Equality (FIRE), to strengthen human rights and gender-responsive capacities, policies, and practices in disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Women environmental human rights defenders—unpacking the (mal)development disaster risk relationship: Empowering environmental human rights defenders, particularly women and Indigenous peoples, through research, advocacy, and partnerships to reduce disaster risk and protect environmental and human rights.

Gender data platform in SERVIR-Mekong: Supporting the integration of gender and social equity in the SERVIR-Mekong project, facilitating greater access to gender data through co-development of the Gender Equality Monitoring (GEM) Platform.

GESEP Programme: The GED team leads SEI's global, Sida-funded, programme on Gender Equality, Social Equity, and Poverty (GESEP). Through this programme, we unpack the critical interconnections between gender, equity, poverty and sustainability, aiming to inform inclusive and transformative sustainable development. We bring together global experts in critical research-to-policy investments as well as support integration of intersectional and multidimensional poverty perspectives into SEI projects.

SEI Asia, based in Bangkok, has a diverse team of multinational experts that integrates scientific research with participatory approaches to co-develop and share knowledge, build partnerships, and inform policy for resilient development. It focuses on gender equality and social equity, climate adaptation, reducing disaster risk, water insecurity and integrated water resources management, transitional agriculture, renewable energy and urbanisation.

SEI Asia is an affiliate of Chulalongkorn University (CU), Thailand. SEI and CU have inked a long-term agreement to foster innovative scientific research combined with effective policy engagement on development and environmental challenges in Asia. The key areas of collaboration are: intellectual engagement for joint research applications and fund mobilization; lecturing and seminars for CU's students; post–graduate supervision and examination; and, CU-SEI employee linkages.