

Gender, participation and REDD+ decision making in Indonesia and Vietnam

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Our study aim

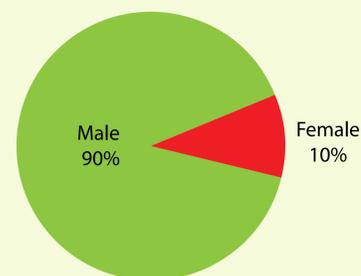
To contribute to REDD+ policies and practices to take full account of the differentiated rights, roles and responsibilities of women and men to promote gender equality and equity.

Our study sites

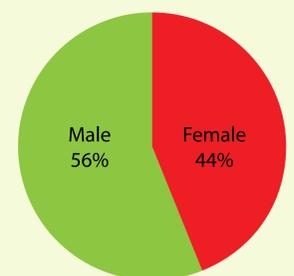
Indonesia and Vietnam, focusing on two provinces Jambi (Indonesia) and Son La (Vietnam).



female chairs in REDD+ national technical working groups are roughly equal. There are three co-chairwomen and four co-chairmen in the four technical REDD+ working groups.



Percentage of chairwomen and chairmen in national REDD+ working groups in Indonesia



Percentage of chairwomen and chairmen in REDD+ technical working groups in Vietnam

- At subnational level in Jambi (Indonesia) and Son La (Vietnam), there are no women participating in REDD+ decision-making processes. And at community level, local men and women are not even aware of REDD+.
- Eight out of 13 interviewed organisations in Indonesia and ten out of 14 interviewed organisations in Vietnam, all working on REDD+, express little or moderate concern about gender aspects and demonstrate low or medium capacity to work on gender.

Our methodologies

Comparative study to analyse the relative involvement of women and men in REDD+ decision-making processes at national and subnational levels, including:

- Policy content analysis;
- Key informant interviews including government officials, NGOs and civil society organizations working on REDD+.

Our preliminary results

- Gender equity has support in the laws of both Indonesia and Vietnam. For example, gender equality laws and regulations that support rural and ethnic minority groups exist in each country. Both governments have voiced their concerns to support gender equity and equality in their draft national REDD+ strategies.

“The Vietnamese government is starting to pilot the benefit sharing mechanism by setting up a payment formula with consideration that if the household is headed by a woman then it will receive higher level of payment.”

“In Indonesia, the Government has recently included gender in its draft national REDD strategies.”

- Full implementation of how gender equity and equality can be integrated into REDD+ policies remains challenges. Even though the Indonesian and Vietnamese national REDD+ strategies have mentioned gender equity and equality, and there are planned piloting activities to integrate gender in the benefit-sharing mechanism in Vietnam, no specific written guidance or operational plan on how to achieve gender equity and equality is yet in place. Specifically, concrete strategic planning that could account for the differentiated roles of men and women in REDD+ or the gender-differentiated aspects of benefit-sharing mechanisms at household level have not yet seen.
- At national level, Indonesian men outnumber women in chairing the national REDD+ working groups by a wide margin. The ten working groups are led by one chairwoman and nine chairmen. In Vietnam, the number of male and

“Gender is one of our organisational mandates but we do not have a gender focal person in our office or a guideline of how to integrate gender.”

“We do not work on gender because it is not our focus.”

- Limited awareness and understanding of the linkages between REDD and gender prevail, therefore there remains a lack of consultation from the REDD+ working groups in these two countries with the gender task force (in Indonesia) and the gender and indigenous committee (in Vietnam) on how to operate gender equality and equity in REDD+.

“We do not work on gender and do not hear much about gender discussions in any REDD national workshops.”

Recommendations

- REDD+ policies and practices (such as national REDD+ strategies in both countries and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in Vietnam) should take full account of the differentiated rights, roles and responsibilities of women and men to promote gender equality and equity.
- Research needs to provide REDD+ policy makers and practitioner communities with country specific case studies showing why involving more women in REDD+ decision-making process matters.
- More coordination between gender task forces and REDD+ working groups are needed to facilitate the inclusion of gender in REDD+. Consultations and lessons sharing between gender task forces and REDD+ working groups would be able to address why women and gender matters in REDD+ and how to include women and gender in a meaningful way.
- Governments should involve more local people – men and women – be more inclusive and inform the public about the decision-making process at different levels, especially at community and grassroots levels. Enhancing men’s and women’s participation in village and commune meetings on REDD+ and mainstreaming gender into current village agreements are practical first steps.