

INSIGHT BRIEF



GENDER AND YOUTH IN LONG-TERM LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

FEBRUARY 2024

NDC 
PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

This Insight Brief reviews the inclusion of gender equality and youth engagement within NDC Partnership members' LT-LEDS using a whole-of-society approach — where climate considerations are mainstreamed into all government decision making from the national to local levels. This is complemented with country examples of gender and youth, a summary of relevant requests for support received through the NDC Partnership and a review of existing gaps and opportunities to strengthen gender and youth inclusion within LT-LEDS.

Since the 2015 Paris Agreement, 67 parties (45 of which are NDC Partnership members) have formulated and communicated LT-LEDS to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These policy documents are a critical tool to enable countries to plan their transition to net zero while promoting economic and social and development.

To support countries in advancing and fostering alignment between LT-LEDS and NDCs, the Partnership launched its [Thematic Call on LT-LEDS and NDC Alignment, Update and Enhancement](#) in 2022.

ABOUT INSIGHT BRIEFS

Insight Briefs are analyses developed by the NDC Partnership's Support Unit, members, or its partner institutions to share insights into thematic issues based on requests received by countries and the support provided by the Partnership. The following Insight Brief, based on NDC Partnership data, provides insights into trends related to gender and youth within long-term, low emission development strategies (LT-LEDS). This Insight Brief also addresses requests related to the Thematic Call on gender and youth and provides recommendations on how to strengthen support to countries.

GENDER AND YOUTH IN LT-LEDS: FACTS AND FIGURES

As of September 2023

45 OF THE 124 NDC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRY MEMBERS SUBMITTED LT-LEDS TO THE UNFCCC¹

26

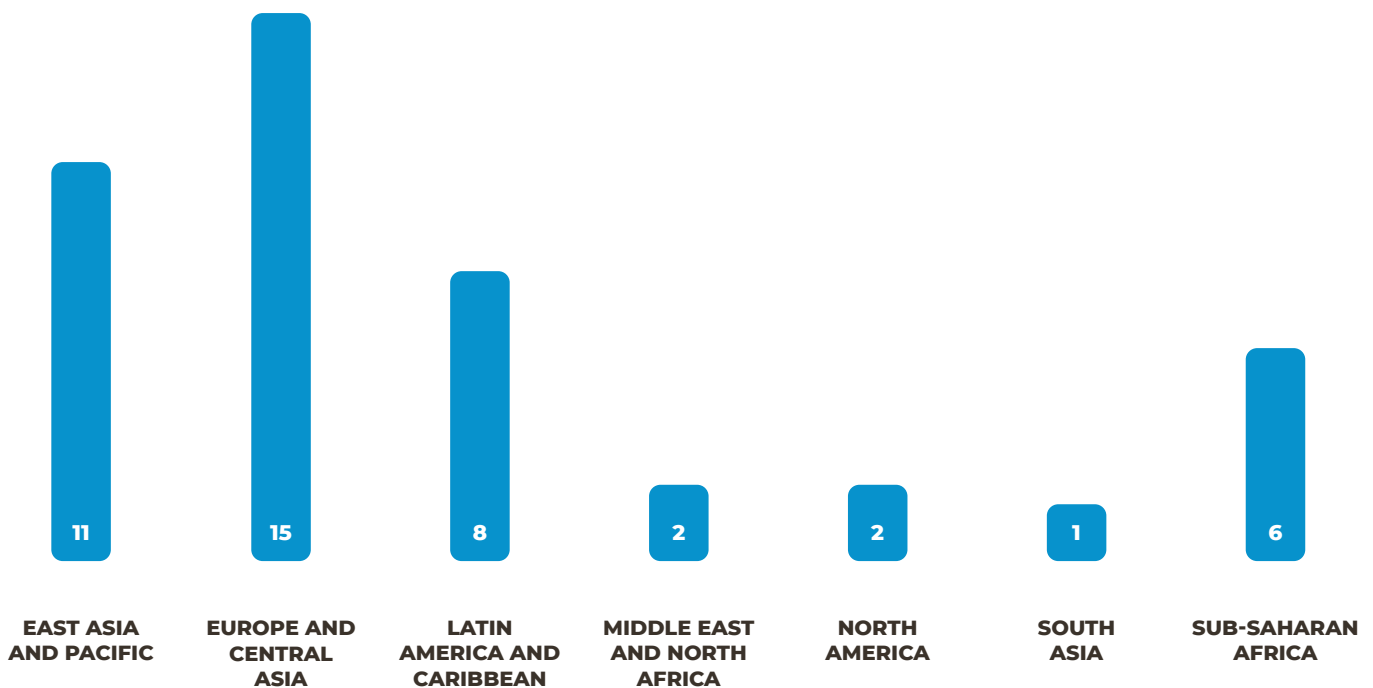
were submitted by developing
country members

19

were submitted by developed
country members

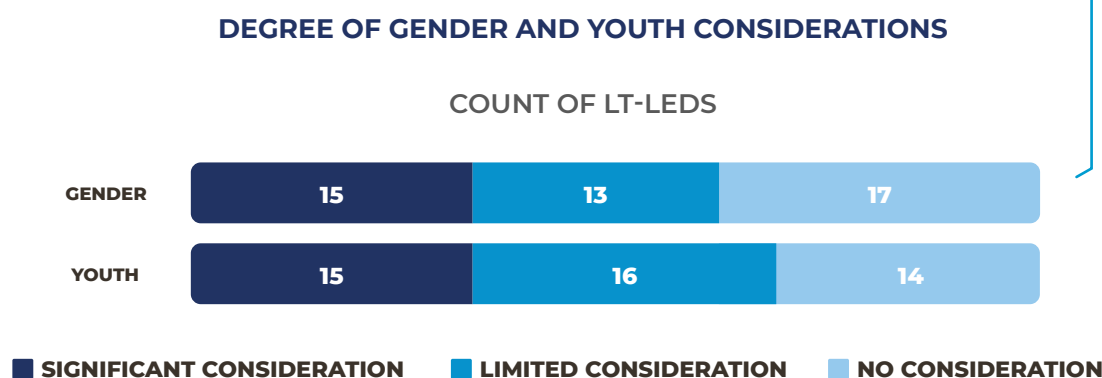
BREAKDOWN OF LT-LEDS

LT-LEDS SUBMISSIONS BY REGION



1. The UNFCCC LT-LEDS synthesis report (FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/8) and synthesis report on gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action as reported by parties in regular reports and communications under the UNFCCC (FCCC/CP/2022/6) includes information on gender and informed the review and analysis presented in this Insight Brief.

The [UNFCCC synthesis report](#) categorized gender considerations into three different categories reflecting the strength of gender consideration within LT-LEDS documents: significant, limited and no consideration.² This methodology was also applied by the Support Unit to a review of LT-LEDS consideration of youth. The 45 reviewed LT-LEDS can be represented in counts for both gender and youth considerations.



Within the reviewed 45 LT-LEDS, only nine countries included significant considerations of both gender and youth — showcasing the need to address this gap in long-term planning.

2. See FCCC/CP/2022/6. "Significant consideration" refers to whether gender and youth stakeholders were considered extensively within LT-LEDS documents. "Limited consideration" refers to when gender and youth were mentioned within LT-LEDS documents but were only mentioned in terms of broader stakeholder engagement. "No consideration" refers to when gender and youth were not considered within LT-LEDS documents.

SPOTLIGHT

Gender and youth considerations | Tonga

An example of significant gender and youth considerations can be found within [Tonga's LT-LEDS](#), in which capacity building of women and youth in sectors such as forestry and agriculture plays an important role within Tonga's long-term climate change strategy.

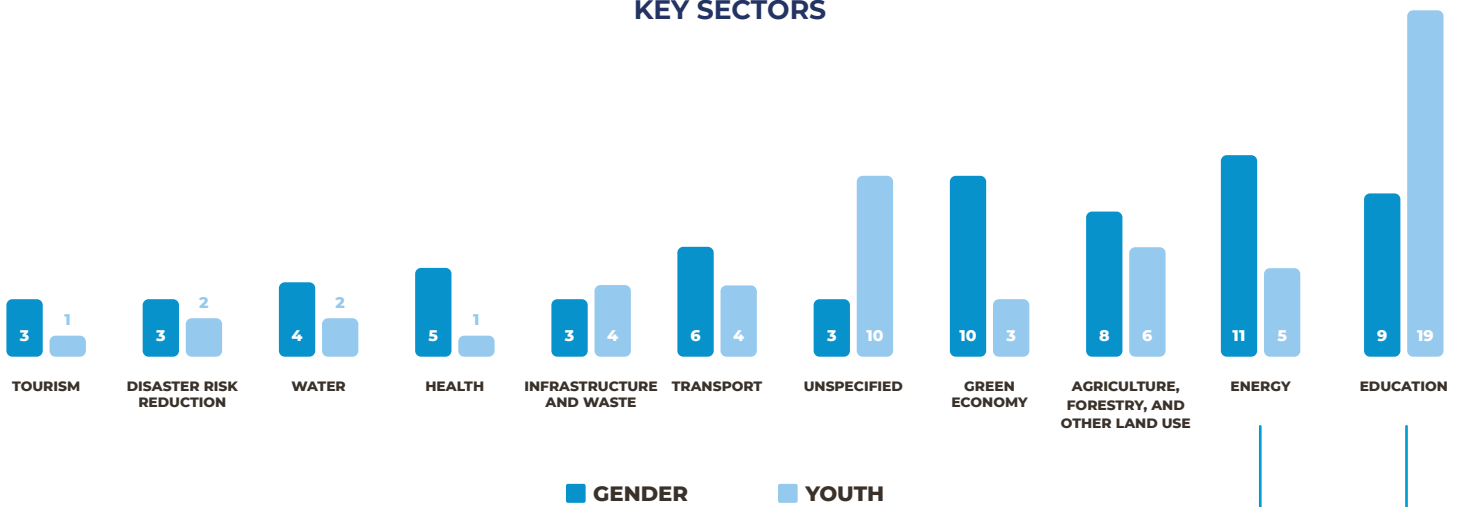
Gender considerations | Chile

An example of significant gender considerations can be found within [Chile's LT-LEDS](#), where sectoral authorities (e.g., Ministry of Energy) are given outlines to generate gender analyses — in close collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity — to identify concrete actions for the advancement of gender equality.

Youth considerations | Morocco

An example of significant youth considerations can be found within [Morocco's LT-LEDS](#), in which vocational training and school curricula are important cross-functional issues to promote long-term low-carbon development.

KEY SECTORS



The energy sector contains the highest number of gender mentions.

Education was a large priority sector for countries considering youth in long-term planning.

SPOTLIGHT

Energy sector | Tonga

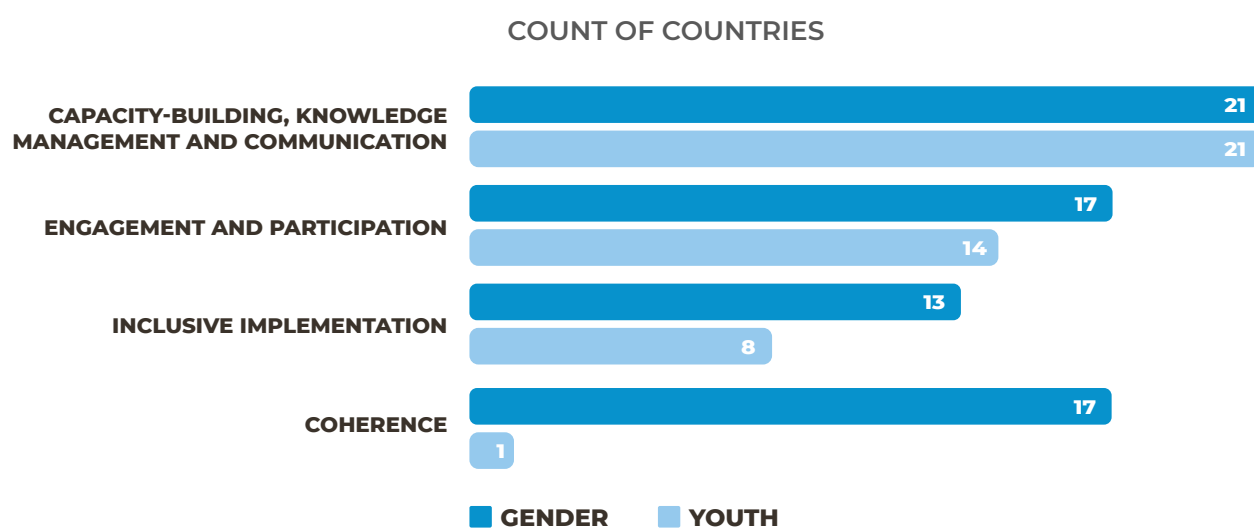
An example in the energy sector can be found within [Tonga's LT-LEDS](#), in which a loan program for low-energy buildings and retrofitting of houses and structures to withstand climate effects is developed in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.

Education | Fiji

An example on education can be found within [Fiji's LT-LEDS](#), in which the government aims to develop a technical and vocational training curriculum (TVET) for Fiji's youth to obtain employment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

To analyze LT-LEDS further, priority areas were identified from the enhanced [Gender Action Plan \(GAP\)](#), highlighting four important categories of objectives and activities.³ Each LT-LEDS was reviewed to determine if the strategies describe commitments to gender equality or youth engagement in any of the four priority areas.

PRIORITY AREAS WITHIN LT-LEDS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES



Capacity building, knowledge management and communication	Enhance outreach, knowledge-sharing, training, education and communication of activities undertaken to enhance gender- and youth-responsive climate action.
Engagement and participation	Enable equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in the LT-LEDS process.
Inclusive implementation	Ensure the empowerment of women and youth roles in the LT-LEDS implementation process.
Coherence	Strengthen the integration of gender and youth considerations across different government entities toward consistent implementation of gender- or youth-related mandates and activities.

Analyzed LT-LEDS included gender-coherent approaches at a much higher rate than youth coherent approaches.

3. The [Gender Action Plan](#), created under the Lima Work Programme on Gender, promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in the UNFCCC process and encourages parties to advance its implementation.

PRIORITY AREAS EXAMPLES

Examples of these priority areas and country considerations of gender equality and youth engagement are provided below.

Capacity building, knowledge management and communication



In [Georgia](#), the country's LT-LEDS aims to involve women in technology through needs assessment and expand women's participation through capacity-building activities and preparation of an enabling environment.



[Ethiopia](#) is ensuring women and youth participation in an inclusive labor market through the establishment of a Women and Youth in Green Jobs Program. The program aims to create economic opportunities through paid employment and entrepreneurship to address difficulties faced by youth and women in accessing green jobs. Through this program, Ethiopia also aims to formalize employment opportunities for youth who are currently engaged in informal and vulnerable jobs.

Engagement and participation



[Nepal](#) considers gender equality as a cross-cutting area in the development of its National Climate Change Policy (NCCP). For the implementation of Nepal's LT-LEDS, women and other relevant stakeholders, (such as youth, indigenous people, private sector and more) were consulted as part of the institutional mechanism to develop the strategy.



In [Chile](#), the Advisory Committee for Climate Action utilizes a multistakeholder consultation approach, involving youth, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples, local communities and academia in the process. Through educational training, Chile aims to create gender-sensitive youth leadership in addressing climate change issues.

Inclusive implementation



[Cambodia](#) commits to gender equality and social inclusion in the AFOLU sector. By recognizing that reduction in agricultural income due to climate change will affect women disproportionately, Cambodia implements inclusive adaptation by ensuring gender balance in the creation of new jobs as well as in knowledge sharing around natural resources.



[Tunisia](#) ensures youth participation by involving young people in the stakeholder consultation process. To ensure the inclusive implementation of LT-LEDS, Tunisia is engaging with a network of women, young people and other vulnerable groups for knowledge sharing and contribution to programs aimed at low carbon transition.

Coherence



[Mexico](#) strengthens gender consideration in implementing climate policy by engaging in interinstitutional collaboration. To ensure effective implementation, the country engages with a variety of stakeholders from different institutions to execute the National Climate Change Strategy.



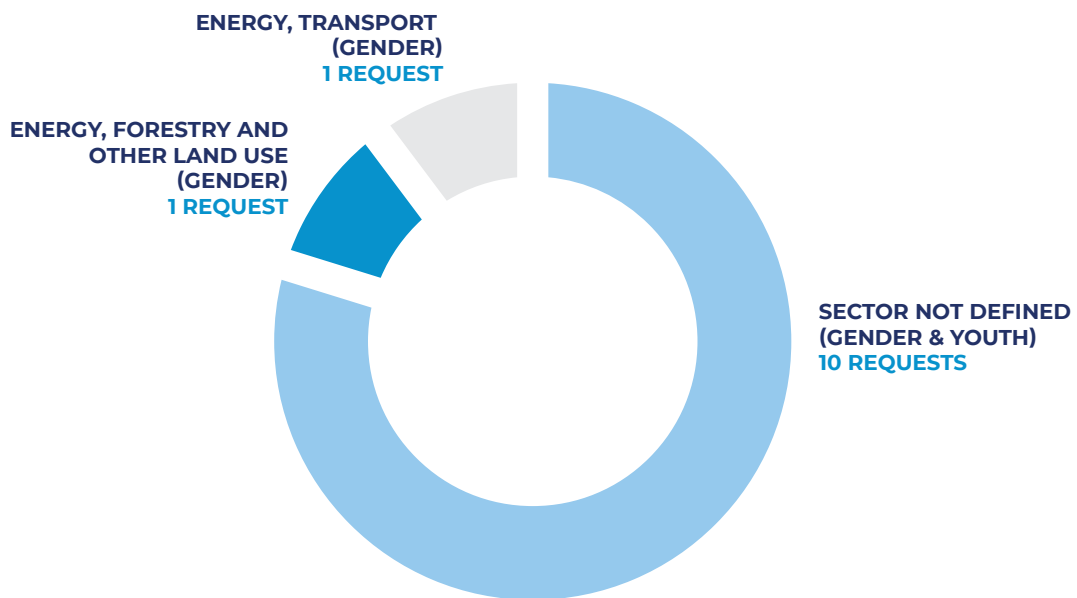
In [Tonga](#), the National Youth Congress is actively encouraging young people to engage in organic farming and attain certification, while also engaging in a variety of farming initiatives aimed at building resilience throughout the country. Tonga is in the process of creating and executing a national education awareness plan (EAP), which aims to incorporate environmental concepts into the educational curriculum and equip teachers with relevant training.

BREAKDOWN OF GENDER AND YOUTH, LT-LEDS REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

A total of **101 REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT** have been submitted by **34 COUNTRIES** through the NDC Partnership's Thematic Call (2% of all requests).

10 of these countries have requested support around **GENDER EQUALITY OR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**.

THEMATIC CALL REQUESTS BY SECTOR



83% of these requests are cross-cutting, focusing on topics such as [stakeholder engagement](#), rather than sector-specific activities. Future requests for support could incorporate more youth and gender considerations into sector-specific planning.

SPOTLIGHT

Panama

Panama, supported by the United Nations Development Programme, requested technical capacity development with a gender-sensitive approach for greenhouse gas data collection in the energy and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While countries have incorporated some level of gender and youth considerations into their LT-LEDS, there are opportunities to further strengthen their inclusion within long-term planning. Recommendations to meaningfully incorporate gender equality and youth engagement within the development process of the new or updated LT-LEDS are listed below.

✔ **Deepen gender and youth considerations within LT-LEDS to align with other low-emission development priorities.**

To maximize impact of LT-LEDS across the whole of society, countries should expand beyond broad engagement and integrate gender and youth considerations into specific activities and objectives, including within sector planning and targets. Additionally, gender and youth considerations should be aligned with other development priorities, such as infrastructure updates or planning for enhanced financial access for communities. Strengthening the specificity of actions for inclusion will foster more sustainable and equitable development within long-term frameworks.

✔ **Adopt a whole-of-society approach to stakeholder engagement within the LT-LEDS development process.**

Incorporating gender and youth-focused communities in the early development stages of LT-LEDS is beneficial to ensure inclusion within the development of LT-LEDS. Engaging diverse stakeholders, including sectoral line ministries, sub-national governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, communities affected by climate change, gender and youth stakeholders, indigenous peoples and universities, among others, is essential. By engaging multiple stakeholder groups in the early stages of LT-LEDS development, countries can ensure that gender and youth entities are engaged throughout subsequent phases of LT-LEDS implementation. This practice lays the foundation for addressing diverse needs of society and promotes accountability in the long term.



✔ Utilize experts on gender and youth and strengthen the capacity of public officials.

Involving gender and youth experts in the development and implementation process of LT-LEDS is key to deepening inclusion. Continuous engagement with dedicated gender and youth representatives ensures that their valuable feedback remains an integral part of LT-LEDS implementation. This collaborative approach is instrumental in securing political buy-in and fostering coordination across various ministries, forming a vital component of a broader stakeholder engagement. Additionally, the capacity of public officials and ministries should be bolstered as needed in matters related to gender and youth considerations. Supporting public officials in their capacity to utilize a whole-of-society approach is critical to developing and implementing long-term plans and broader sustainability goals.

✔ Ensure effective integration of gender and youth considerations in LT-LEDS through monitoring and evaluation.

Integrating gender equity and social inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation process is imperative for assessing the progress and impact of LT-LEDS over time. Many LT-LEDS do not currently mention monitoring and reporting mechanisms to understand how gender and youth considerations contribute to long-term transformation. Without due attention to measuring gender equality and social inclusion, the activities set forth in these strategies are at risk of falling short. Collecting and learning from this data will support translating intentions into concrete actions and adjusting as needed for long-term development.

✔ Incorporate gender and youth considerations in long-term planning through the Thematic Call mechanism.

Among requests for support received by the Partnership, only a limited number reflect country priorities on gender equality or youth engagement. There is an opportunity to improve both gender and youth considerations as cross-cutting elements of long-term planning through the Partnership's Thematic Call on LT-LEDS and NDC Alignment, Update and Enhancement. By incorporating gender and youth into long-term planning, countries can ensure that the benefits and impacts of development are distributed equitably within the whole of society.



Gender and Youth in Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies

INSIGHT BRIEF

This Insight Brief was developed and prepared by the Knowledge and Learning team of the NDC Partnership Support Unit, Htet Thadar Aung and Hannah Girardeau, with support from Chuyi Lu. LT-LEDS gender consideration data was informed by analysis conducted by UNFCCC Gender Team.

Contact: Htet.ThadarAung@ndcpartnership.org.

Cover photo by [Photographee.eu](https://www.adobe.com/stock/photos/Photographee.eu) / Adobe Stock

NDC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT UNIT

WASHINGTON, DC, USA OFFICE

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

10 G Street NE Suite 800,
Washington, DC 20002, USA

T: +1 (202) 729-7600

E: supportunit@ndcpartnership.org

BONN, GERMANY OFFICE

UN CLIMATE CHANGE / UNOPS

Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany

T: +49 (228) 815-1000

E: supportunit@ndcpartnership.org

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of four overlapping, slanted rectangular shapes in blue, orange, green, and dark blue.