

The Republic of Turkey
PRIME MINISTRY
GENERAL DIRECTORATE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

POLICY DOCUMENT
WOMEN and ENVIRONMENT

2008, ANKARA

This policy document analyses the situation in Turkey of women compared to men in the area of environment. It has been prepared by KSGM together with six other policy documents. The policy documents cover the areas of education, economy, poverty, power and decision making, health, media and environment. These seven policy documents have been used as input for the National Action Plan Gender Equality 2008-2013.

All seven policy documents include the following paragraphs: an introduction in which the significance of the role of women in the area is stated; an overview of the past and present legal framework with regard to gender equality in the relevant area; an extensive analysis of the current situation of women compared to men based on relevant national and local statistics; a listing of the obstacles in this area for reaching gender equality; an overview of relevant government policies; and a listing of objectives and strategies for action to be implemented between 2008 and 2013.

The content of the policy documents is the result of an exchange with relevant stakeholders. First a mapping exercise was performed between March and June 2007 with the aim of identifying relevant stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities and assessing the issues that needed to be addressed in the National Action Plan Gender Equality 2008-2013. Following this activity, the draft policy documents were prepared for each area and discussed in working group meetings with relevant stakeholders. In the first meeting held in October 2007 participants had the opportunity to state their views on a draft text that presented a general summary of the current status of women in the area, the legal framework, existing government policies, and other activities carried out to improve the status of women. In a second meeting in February 2008 the same groups discussed a first draft of the objectives and strategies to be implemented. The comments of the participants have been taken into account when finalising the documents.

The indicators and statistics presented in the policy documents will be used as benchmarks for monitoring the progress in gender equality. The relevant statistics will be updated every two years and will be published on the website of KSGM: www.ksgm.gov.tr

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EU Twinning Project: Promoting Gender Equality

Component 4

POLICY DOCUMENT WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of environment has numerous definitions. When the definitions of the environment, made in a way to include the environmental problems perceived today, are examined it is possible to determine that there is a special emphasis on the relationship between people and environment. In this policy document, environment as the “physical environment” and the relationship between “women and environment” will be addressed from the perspective of gender.

There are certain approaches in which it is argued that women feel themselves closer to nature due to the fact that nature and women share similar functions such as giving birth, nurturing, nourishing and producing. According to these approaches, women find themselves in the necessity to make use of nature in order to provide for and/or maintain the livelihood of their children and their family and yet they act in due reconciliation with the laws of nature and with great care to protect nature on the basis of their functions of giving life, producing life, nurturing and protecting.¹ These approaches also underscore the notion that women care for the regeneration and sustainability of nature, as well as understand, internalise and protect it.

Although it is possible to establish a relation between environment and women as specified above, defining the relation of women with the environment merely on the basis of women’s nature will considerably constrict the scope of the issue and has the potential even to detract the issue from the gender perspective.

Since the early 1980s the relationship between environment and women has achieved special attention world-wide within the context of gender. Studies have been initiated especially by international institutions with the

¹ KABAŞ, Didem, Yüksek Lisans Tezi (Kadınların Çevre Sorunlarına İlişkin Bilgi Düzeyleri ve Çevre Eğitimi), Gazi Üniversitesi, Ankara, 2004.

aim of determining the effects of environmental crises on women in the light of rapidly increasing environmental problems.

The endeavours in this respect gained importance following the first World Conference on Women (1975). Together with the UN Decade for Women, declared after this conference, and third World Conference on Women, aimed at attaining the goals of "Equality, Development and Peace", the relationship between the concepts of "women and environment" came to the agenda within the context of "women and development".

The activities reached a peak during the finalisation of the Women's Action Agenda 21, which was developed after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. In this context, special emphasis was placed on the significant relationship between women and environment.

Considering the concept "Women and Environment" from a gender perspective, three main issues can be distinguished:

- i) Women as parties affecting environment;
- ii) Women as parties affected by environment;
- iii) Under-representation of women in policy development and decision-making processes pertaining to environment.

In this policy document, after a description of the legal framework, the current situation in Turkey will be addressed. Next, information on the previous and current policies and programmes will be presented. Then, policy priorities and objectives will be determined on the basis of the current situation and subsequently, the implementation strategies through which these objectives will be attained are given.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The CEDAW is the only international legally binding instrument in the field of equality between men and women. Turkey became a party to the CEDAW in 1985 and put the Convention into force in 1986. The CEDAW incorporates the statement that "... in the belief that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields ... the states parties ... have agreed on the following ..." At the present day, protection of the environment is attributed special importance for the aim of rendering sustainable development. Moreover, as stated in the CEDAW, development requires the provision of equality between men and women in all fields. In this framework, all policies implemented by Turkey, including the environmental policies, should be designed and effectuated with due observation of equality between men and women. A special section is provided for rural women in Article 14 of CEDAW that incorporates the statement that "... States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right ...", followed by "to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications"

in the sub-clause (h). Attainment by rural women of the standards of living in the fields in question will not be independent from their attainment of liveable environmental conditions.

The first point of interest in terms of Turkish environmental policies is the fact that the issue of environment is addressed in a special section in the Constitution. Article 56 of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey states that "Everyone has the right to live in a healthy, balanced environment and it is the duty of the state and citizens to improve the natural environment and to prevent environmental pollution." This article is of significance in two aspects. Firstly, this article establishes the legal grounds that will enable the issue of environment to be addressed in a modern manner. Secondly, this article imposes a responsibility on both individuals and the state and does not discriminate between individuals. Therefore, women have the right both to request from the state the services that will enable them to live in a healthy environment and to refer to the mechanisms that will pave the way for them to participate in the regulations related to environment.

In the Law on the Protection of Environment, No. 2872, clause (e) of Article 3 titled "Principles" states that "In forming environmental policies, the right of participation is a fundamental right. The Ministry and local authorities are responsible for providing a participatory environment to chambers of professions, unions, NGOs and citizens, in which they will use their environmental right." The legislative infrastructure required to enable women to participate in the development of environmental policies already exists.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

The first finding to be underscored under this title is the lack of gender specific information on environmental issues. As a consequence, the situation of women in terms of environment is rather difficult to establish. Considering the fact that the section most affected by negative environmental conditions, is the disadvantaged section of the society in terms of status and the fact that the status of women has not yet reached the desired level, it would not be wrong to underscore that women are, too, among those worst affected by negative environmental conditions. This current context necessitates the provision of a distinct definition of the status of women in terms of environment and of gender-based data that will be used in policy development processes. As for the data needed in this framework, data on access to natural resources such as water, soil, land, etc. and the exploitation of natural resources, data on access to energy sources and the exploitation of energy and the data on the impacts of unplanned urbanisation on women can be given as examples.

Despite the inadequate amount of gender-based data, this policy document will endeavour to underscore the importance of the issue of "women and environment" via principal subheadings on the issue of environment.

Exploitation of and Access to Natural Resources

Turkey was introduced to industrialisation and the subsequent environmental problems induced by the movement were encountered at a later date as compared to developed countries. It is known that the health of all people and therefore the quality of life are affected by the damage done by industrialisation-related environmental pollution to

natural resources such as water, soil, air. Besides environmental problems related to industrialisation, there are serious environmental problems in rural areas that are not related to industrialisation. Whereas a portion of agricultural land is destroyed due to erosion, forests in certain regions are cleared to be used as agricultural land.

As is the case for all living beings, women, as the consumers of environment, affect and are affected by environment. The manners by which women exploit environment typically depend upon gender roles. Women, especially those in rural areas, provide food and drink for their families and for the society by exploiting and managing natural resources. However, negative conditions as the existence of villages devoid of road access, water, electricity or schools, the increasing poverty of agricultural land, and deforestation create rather serious problems for women who have lots of responsibilities in rural areas. These heavy conditions and responsibilities can be identified as the most significant obstacles to the advancement of women.

The fact that natural resources in rural areas are mostly exploited by women reveals the particular importance of raising the awareness of women on environmental problems and the concept of a healthy environment.

The negative conditions indicated above are not limited to the rural areas; it is possible to observe such conditions in underdeveloped areas of developed regions in Turkey.

Unplanned Urbanisation

Turkey entered the era of industrialisation after the 1950s and urbanisation also gained speed as from the same years. Consequently, large-scale environmental problems emerged following the 1970s.²

Today, it is observed that the environmental problems in the urban areas are proportionally increasing with unplanned urbanisation. As distinct from developed countries, Turkey has undergone a very fast urbanisation process with migration directed mostly towards urban areas. Numerous urban environmental problems emerge as cities fail to satisfy the necessities entailed by the influx of migrants.³

Unplanned urbanisation certainly creates a great number of negative influences on women. Lack of data, however, makes it difficult to identify these influences clearly.

It could also be stated that women coming to large cities via migration sometimes have to live under negative conditions and this situation makes women more susceptible to influences caused by negative environmental conditions.

Sustainable Development

Based on the principles of protecting nature whilst providing economic development and exploiting and protecting natural resources at the same time, the term "sustainable development" was first used in 1987 in the Brundtland Report

² GÖRMEZ, Kemal, Çevre Sorunları, Nobel Yayın Dağıtım, Ankara, 2007, p. 39.

³ Idem. p. 39.

prepared by the World Commission on Environment and Development. In the report, sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development is closely related to the protection of the environment and the elimination of poverty. Gender is an essential element in this concept.

In Turkey, public agencies and institutions, non-governmental organisations and private sector enterprises increasingly incorporate gender-based approaches into their development (especially rural development) strategies and implementations and awareness raising and capacity-building activities on the exploitation of natural resources and protection of nature are an integral part of income-generating or income-increasing activities for women.

In this respect, the GAP-ÇATOM Project is one of the successful examples. The ÇATOM (Multipurpose Community Centres within the Context of the Enhancement of the Status of Women and the Integration of Women into Development Processes in the GAP region) Project was prepared with the aim of developing alternative formulas for the integration of women into developmental processes at the family, district and region levels in the GAP regions. Until now, tens of thousands of women have benefited from the programmes delivered in ÇATOM, whose number reached 30 as of late 2007. With the services provided at ÇATOM, not only women, but also thousands of young and adult men were provided with education, health and social services support.

Education and Awareness Raising

The role of women in the development of approaches pertaining to ecologically correct consumption and production methods and exploitation and management of natural resources are recognised by an international instrument.⁴ "Women, as consumers, producers and individuals responsible for providing for their families are at a key position for maintaining the standard of life and its sustainability both for the present generation and the future generations"⁵ Therefore, educating women on environment and raising their awareness on this issue in particular are of utmost importance.

Environmental education and awareness raising activities should be incorporated more into the agendas of public agencies and institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector.

Modification of the Consumption Model and Prevention of Wastage

Prevention of wastage is closely associated with the correct exploitation of natural resources, especially water, and awareness raising on well use of natural resources. The key position of women, as mentioned above, brings them forward also in terms of prevention of wastage and development of environment-sensitive consumption models.

From the point of consumption, women are negatively represented in the media. Reflection of the model of "women with correct consumption patterns" in the mass circulation media will ensure that women make the right consumption choices. This will help the protection of the environment by preventing wastage. The projection of women in

⁴ Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Rio de Janeiro Declaration.

⁵ KSSGM, Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document (Turkish-English), Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, Ankara, September, 2001.

the media with the model of “women with correct consumption patterns” instead of the negative projection as consuming continuously, wasting and being very fond of luxury is also important in terms of presenting women in the media correctly.

As they are among the section most influenced by environmental problems, women can contribute to the protection of the environment, without lowering their families’ standard of living, by changing their consumption habits and behaviours in favour of the environment, preferring non-polluting and recyclable products, making conscious use of energy resources, minimising the amount of domestic wastes, rendering the domestic consumption cycle more efficient, and raising the awareness level of their children on environment.⁶

Biological Diversity

Turkey has a rich biological diversity as a result of climate variations, topographical differences, geological and geomorphologic differences, diversities in water settings such as seas, lakes and rivers, altitude differences varying from 0 to 5000 meters, and the existence of three different geographical vegetation regions. 75 per cent of the plant species in the European continent grow in Turkey. Although Turkey is quite rich in terms of species diversity, the situation is not the same for the quantities of existing species. Industrial pollution, domestic pollution, drying and improvement works, excessive and illegal fishing, uncontrolled hunting, uncontrolled cutting and burning of bush, and pressure originated from tourism activities give considerable damage to the biological diversity.⁷

In the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it was recognised that the decrease in biological diversity was an important problem and that this decrease could not be prevented without international efforts. The Summit was concluded with the signing of global agreements, including the Biological Diversity Agreement which Turkey is also a party to. The three main objectives of the Agreement are:

- Protection of biological diversity;
- Sustainable exploitation of biological resources;
- Fair and equitable distribution of the benefits arising from the exploitation of genetic resources.

Turkey is liable to improve the National Biological Diversity Strategy and Action Plan (UBSEP) and to comply with the terms of the Agreement. Within the context of UBSEP, goals towards the protection of biological diversity and its sustainable exploitation as well as a roadmap are being established. Moreover, obstacles and gaps and practical contradictions preventing the attainment of these objectives are being identified. Since the provision of communication and coordination between other relevant national initiatives such as agricultural strategies and national development plans is among the goals set by UBSEP, the importance of women should be underscored in terms of protection and sustainable exploitation.

6 ESER, Didar and ÖZGEN, E. Kadın, Aile ve Çevre, Ankara Üniversitesi Basımevi, Ankara, 1993.

7 Çevre ve Orman Bakanlığına hazırlanan AB Entegre Çevre Uyum Stratejisi (2007-2023).

Climate Change

Climate change affects the poor disproportionately. Since women constitute the majority of the world's poor, women are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.⁸

Moreover, since such skills as swimming and tree climbing are taught mainly to boys, women and girls are under a heightened risk of death due to natural disasters.⁹

In addition, climate change has a direct impact on women's lives because of their domestic responsibilities. For example, women have primary responsibility for food security, household water supply, and the provision of energy for cooking and heating.

Conditions such as drought, deforestation and erratic rainfall have a disproportionate negative effect on their ability to carry out these duties. As climate change causes women to work harder to secure these basic resources, they are deprived of educational or employment opportunities.¹⁰

Women are strong actors of change. They possess the knowledge to play a leading role in the development of strategies for the struggle with climate change. Nevertheless, women are being poorly represented in the field of climate change and of sustainable development in general. Consequently, women should be referred to in order to benefit from their level of knowledge effectively.

The Right to Environment and Participation

As mentioned above under certain titles, women are among the groups most affected by negative environmental conditions yet they also have a significant accumulation of experience on environment. In addition, they are at a key position when exploitation of natural resources is concerned. However, women are kept rather behind in terms of their participation in decision-making mechanisms and the development of environmental policies.

As they constitute a group both affected by and affecting the environment, ensuring equal participation of women in environmental policies is necessary and important also in terms of protecting women's human rights. Nevertheless, participation of women in the protection and management of the environment and the development, planning and execution of environmental policies is not yet at the desired level.¹¹

Food Safety

Land and water resources form the basis of all agricultural systems and the protection of these resources is of vital importance for sustainable and improved food production. Water is a major priority for rural women. They bring water into the house, they manage its domestic exploitation, they grow agricultural products with and without irrigation, they know how to store water, when water will become scarce, and they know whether a given water supply is domestically usable or not.

8 UN CSW 52. Session, Gender Perspective in Climate Change Expert Report, 2008.

9 Idem.

10 Idem.

11 Beijing Fourth World Conference.

This same mechanism is the case for soil resources. Women apply agricultural methods of the time in protecting valuable natural resources and they further improve these methods. This pattern brings them to a very significant position for the protection of soil productivity. Women apply numerous techniques and methods in order to protect soil and enrich its productivity. It is highly recognized that making use of local knowledge of women is of great importance in terms of environmental protection and sustainability.

Various training programmes are being organised for rural women by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. These programmes are also of prior significance in connection with “sustainable development” and “education and awareness raising”.

Among these programmes, the Agricultural Production, Education and Extension activities aim at providing women, who have always undertaken an active role in all periods of agricultural history, with training on agricultural issues via improved extension methods, increasing agricultural production and ensuring that natural resources like water are kept in a sustainable usable condition at all times during agricultural practices. The training programmes are delivered in 27 provinces and will be extended to all 81 provinces in 2008.

As another item in the agricultural programmes for women, the Household Economics Training and Extension Activities, aims at improving the social lives of farming families in rural areas to the level of modern life and providing rural girls and women with training on household economics during their spare time from agricultural practices for the advancement of the rural fractions in general in terms of the socio-economic aspect of life. Household Economics Training and Extension Activities incorporate issues as “management of family resources” and “nutrition”. Within this framework 62,491 women participated in 5,434 trainings delivered in 2005 and 52,621 women participated in 4,353 trainings in 2006.

Apart from these activities, training and extension activities are also in progress for food preservation via various methods, applied nutrition and health research and use of iodised salt.

Moreover, the Female Farmers Agricultural Extension Project is under way with the aim of training women involved in management and agriculture activities on agricultural issues via improved extension methods, increasing agricultural production and enabling women to undertake a more active role in sustainable agriculture activities and rural development. Having started in 2000 and currently implemented in 19 provinces, this DPT-based project was extended by an additional 3 years in late 2005 in contemplation of the fact that the contributions of the project will be of great significance for the economic development of female farmers.

4. PREVIOUS AND CURRENT POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

The importance of taking gender equality into account in plans and programmes developed for combating environmental problems is presently widely recognised on the global scale.¹²

In this respect, the Local Agenda 21 (UNCED 1992), the Johannesburg Implementation Plan 2002, the Beijing Action Platform (1995, Fourth World Conference on Women), the World Summit for Social Development (1995), and the Millennium Development Goals (2000) are significant conventions that underscore the importance of addressing the concept of gender and environmental policies.

In the 55th UN General Assembly, meeting on 6-8 September 2000, 147 heads of state and government (189 member states in total) recognised “a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level” and adopted the Millennium Declaration. Objectives recognised in this Declaration include “provision of environmental sustainability” and “promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women”. Forming the basic structure of global development, the Millennium Development Goals cannot be considered as being independent from each other. Empowerment of women and provision of gender equality will certainly attain the desired level with the realisation of the goal of providing environmental sustainability, as well as all other Millennium Development Goals.

Within the context of the Beijing +5 Political Declaration, the statement that “people are at the centre of sustainable development and all people have the right to lead a healthy and productive life in unison with environment” is of striking importance. The Declaration in question also incorporates the statement that “women, as consumers, producers and individuals responsible for providing for their families, are at a key position for maintaining the standard of life and its sustainability both for the present generation and the future generations.”

A close look at the issue of “women and environment” in Turkey reveals that the gender perspective has not yet been incorporated into plans and programmes on environment and that precise data cannot be obtained. Considering the issue of “women and environment” and comparing it with the other 11 critical issues addressed to in relation with women in Beijing +5, the increasing importance attributed to the efforts to incorporate gender equality into all main policies is clearly revealed. In this context, policies outlined in the two instruments mentioned below will provide guidance for the reflection of a gender perspective in environmental policies.

An evaluation of the situation in Turkey reveals the following documents, policies, programmes and training as instruments worth mentioning.

The first document is the “EU Integrated Environmental Approximation Strategy (2007-2023)” prepared in 2006 by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. This document reflects the current situation concerning the environment under the titles of water, wastes, air, industrial pollution control, noise, chemicals and genetically modified organisms, nature protection, and horizontal sectors. The document establishes relevant goals and strategies for the coming

¹² UNEP, Gender Plan of Action, 16 August 2006.

years. The vision presented in this document is expressed with the statement that “With the realisation of the National Environmental Strategy Turkey will be a country where the fundamental needs of present and future generations will be met, the quality of life will be increased, biological diversity will be protected, natural resources will be managed in a rational manner with an approach of sustainable development, and the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment will be protected.” In order for this vision to be realised, it is an obvious requirement to provide women with equal participation.

The second relevant document is the Ninth Development Plan prepared by the State Planning Organisation. In this document, the issue of environment is addressed in the section “Increasing Competitiveness” under the title of “Protecting the Environment and Improving the Urban Infrastructure”. Again under the same title, it is stated that “Conditions for protection and utilisation of natural resources will be determined by taking the needs of the future generations into consideration and environment management systems will be established in a way to ensure equitable exploitation of these resources by everyone.” As can be gathered from this statement, the incorporation of the gender equality perspective into the process of determining the conditions for protection and utilisation of natural resources is almost a precondition for the attainment of the goal of “equitable” exploitation of these resources by everyone.

An Environment and Forestry Council was held on 22-24 March 2005 in Antalya. The Council, among other decisions, declared that “Training efforts in forest villages should focus on female and young residents as prioritised target groups in order to highlight the constructive and productive aspects of these groups.” The decisions also include the stipulation that “As the deliverers of pre-primary education to new generations, participation of women should be ensured in environment and forestry training programmes to the greatest extent possible.” These two decisions are particularly important because they demonstrate the contributions women can make to the solution of environment-related problems.

The Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been carrying out environment protection training activities in 14 Special Environmental Protection Areas on the basis of the rational use and protection of natural values by raising the awareness levels of target groups such as local people, teachers, students, fishermen, farmers, government officials, people working in tourism sector, and sailors. On the next pages the objectives and strategies for the period 2008-2013 are presented.

Objectives and Strategies for Action

Objective 1: It will be ensured that data on the environment will be gender specific, and research and scientific studies on women and environment will be increased.

STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES-INSTITUTIONS	COLLABORATING AGENCIES-INSTITUTIONS
1.1 Data produced by institutions working on the issue of environment should be desegregated by gender	TÜİK, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs other related Public Agencies and Institutions, Universities (Women Research and Implementation Centres and Environment Research Centres)	Trade organisations Trade Unions and Confederations of Workers-Employers, NGOs
1.2 Encouraging the undertaking of research and scientific studies on women and environment	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, TÜBİTAK, Universities, Women Research and Implementation Centres, Environment Research Centres	KSGM, Relevant Public Agencies and Institutions
1.3 Collecting national and international research and scientific studies on women and environment	Universities, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	KSGM, Relevant Public Agencies and Institutions

Objective 2: The effectiveness of women in decisions made on environmental issues will be ensured.

STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES-INSTITUTIONS	COLLABORATING AGENCIES-INSTITUTIONS
2.1 Increasing the number of women's councils (currently around 40) and expanding them to 81 provinces; enabling women to participate in the decisions regarding environmental issues	Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities	Trade Associations, Universities, NGOs
2.2 Increasing the participation of women in policy development on environmental issues	DPT, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Local Authorities	Universities, Media Organisations, NGOs
2.3 Raising awareness and sensitivity on the fact that women as a group suffer more from adverse environmental conditions	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Local Authorities	MEB, KSGM, Universities, NGOs

Objective 3: The role of women in the effective implementation of environment policies will be strengthened.

STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES- INSTITUTIONS	COLLABORATING AGENCIES-INSTITUTIONS
3.1 Carrying out awareness raising activities for women on sustainable and ecologically correct means of consumption and production and on the exploitation and management of natural resources	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Universities, Trade Associations, MEB, Local Authorities and Presidency of GAP Administration, NGOs
3.2 Encouraging initiatives of women in non-governmental organisations working on solutions for environmental problems	KSGM	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Local Authorities, NGOs

Objective 4: Women (primarily rural women) will be protected and strengthened against rural and urban adverse environmental conditions and empowered in order to increase their living standards.

STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES- INSTITUTIONS	COLLABORATING AGENCIES-INSTITUTIONS
4.1 Implementing preventative and protective actions for women working in agricultural areas and in greenhouses against the negative effects of the chemicals used in these locations	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Health	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Trade Organisations, NGOs
4.2 Implementing awareness-raising campaigns on how to protect oneself against natural disasters and all adverse conditions experienced in the post-disaster period	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Disaster Affairs, General Directorate of Civil Defence, SHÇEK, Universities	KSGM, Kızılay, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Local Authorities, NGOs
4.3 Developing solutions to counterbalance the negative effects on women of unplanned urbanisation, slum housing and urban services (inner-city transportation, illumination, etc.)	Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, Local Authorities, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Environmental Engineering, Urban Planning and Architecture Departments of Universities, Turkish Union of Chambers of Engineers and Architects (TMMOB)

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