

Urban Futures Symposium

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Presentation: Gendered Vulnerabilities and Adaptation to Climate Change of Male and Female Headed Households of Tonle Sap Riverine Communities in Cambodia

The research aims to examine the relationship between gendered vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies to climate change in male and female headed households in Tonle Sap riverine communities in order to develop gender-responsive climate change adaptation. A mixed methods approach was used by conducting interviews with 220 household heads (110 females), 24 key informants and three focus group discussions

Quantitative and qualitative findings corroborate that single or widowed female headed households are more vulnerable to climate change owing to the lack of male labour force, having a single income source, income instability and lower education. Migration was likely taken by male family members from male headed or married female headed households, supporting the household's income through remittance.

The preliminary conclusion from the research is that single or widowed female headed households are more vulnerable to climate change than male and married female headed households. Therefore, the research argues that the household as a unit of analysis and action, together with a gendered lens, and the intersectionality such as education, income, marital status, are essential in developing responses that effectively recognise and address the complexity of gendered vulnerabilities and adaptation to climate change.