

strong focus on climate change adaptation measures as well as to contribute to the policy and normative progresses requested by the OECD in water management issues.

Solid waste valorisation

In Peru, the recovery rate of organic and inorganic waste remains low. In 2021, more than 8 billion tons of municipal waste was generated annually, of which only 1.8% was recycled. This highlights the need to enhance the implementation and establishment of valorisation plants, such as recycling, composting, transforming waste in energy, among others. Waste management could not only help to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and unmanaged dumps, thus mitigating adverse health effects and long-term environmental impacts, but also be a source of employment and profit.

With the approval of Supreme Decree N° 002-2022-VIVIENDA, the management and handling of solid waste from construction and demolition was regulated. The regulation prioritises the minimisation, final disposal, and recovery of materials or solid or semi-solid substances generated in the execution of infrastructure works, urban developments and/or buildings. This contributes to sustainability and the transition towards a circular economy in the construction sector.

In this context, it is important to develop the favourable conditions of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as a key strategy to reinforce the impact of valorisation plants. This action facilitates the increase of recyclable materials, improving waste management practices and promoting the principles of the circular economy, by creating and developing a market for recovered products. Linked to this process is the identification of 3 economic corridors – as pilot experiences - to identify the most viable markets for regional development.

Therefore, it is necessary to improve the regulatory and normative conditions that allow a sustainable management of solid waste and its valorisation. Exploring the potential market for products derived from waste recovery is crucial. These efforts are essential to establish adequate demand to ensure the economic viability of recovery plants. In addition, it is important to create the right conditions for the implementation of the EPR. In this way, sustainable investment projects aimed at transforming solid waste into business opportunities are reinforced.

Existing research shows that women are disproportionately represented in low-value added, informal and end-of-pipe activities of the circular economy, including recycling, reuse and waste management. By contrast, when dealing into higher value-added circular activities, the development of circular products and other activities involving greater use of advanced technologies, women's participation is less prominent. This, in part, is the result of women's low participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities due to gender socialisation and the gendered division of labour. Moreover, the power and utilities sector, a key sector in the transition to circularity, is still overwhelmingly male-dominated: women make up only 5% of executive board members; 21% of non-executive board members, and 15% of senior management leadership roles. This suggests that the gender divide also exists within the circular economy and the sectors that underpin this transition. Hence, a just and inclusive transition towards circularity calls for a stronger participation of women across the entire circular economy spectrum, and not only in activities associated with the informal sector and with low productivity levels and technology use²⁴.

Mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change

Peru's growth is largely driven by natural capital, which, if wrongly exploited, can generate on the one hand vulnerability to climate change and risks and on the other hand opportunities linked to low-carbon development pathways and the green transition. Peru has made ambitious commitments under the Paris Agreement. Its NDC aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 – and by up to 40% with international support. The Government also wants to implement adaptation measures at national level to cope with the impacts of climate change. The 2015 “National Climate Change Strategy” and the 2018 Peruvian “Framework Law on Climate Change” provides defined the principles and approaches for Peruvian climate policy and establishes a structure of institutional arrangements for its development, coordination, execution, and incorporated instruments for its

²⁴ Why adopting a gender-inclusive approach towards Circular Economy matters | Industrial Analytics Platform (unido.org)