



## Submission by Finland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

### Subject: How to mainstream gender considerations into national adaptation planning and implementation

Helsinki, 16.07.2019

#### **Introduction**

The EU welcomes the decision by the Adaptation Committee, in its 2019-2021 workplan, to include the objective of incorporating gender as a cross-cutting consideration into all its activities. We also welcome the opportunity to submit our views to the Adaptation Committee on how to mainstream gender considerations into national adaptation planning and implementation.

In this submission, the EU and its Member States will highlight relevant examples from both EU and broader contexts, and tease out some general principles that will be helpful in the deliberations of the Adaptation Committee.

#### **Rationale for gender mainstreaming**

Promoting and advancing gender equality as a cross-cutting priority contributes to the empowerment of women and girls as agents of change and strengthens their resilience, which is a prerequisite for **securing the resilience of societies overall**, also in the context of climate change.

**Climate change can affect men and women differently**, reflecting differences in gender roles, as well as vulnerability and exposure to climate change. Women and men also differ in their adaptive capacity, in their access to resources to mitigate and manage climate-related risks as well as to strengthen resilience.

To be **effective, inclusive and fair**, national (and local) adaptation planning and implementation must take these differences into account. This is a principle that applies equally to a range of country contexts, regardless of levels of income, human development and cultural circumstances. That said, how to approach gender-responsive adaptation may vary according to the specific local circumstances.

## EU's efforts to promote gender mainstreaming within the EU and beyond

Equality between men and women features amongst the common values on which the European Union is founded<sup>1</sup> and has been enshrined in the European Treaties from the very beginning. An overview of **gender equality as an overarching policy priority in the EU** is provided in the EU submission on gender, dated 21 March 2018<sup>2</sup>. This applies equally to domestic climate and other policies, as it does to international cooperation, and therefore support to climate action by developing countries. The latter is enshrined in Council Conclusions from 2017, where the EU committed to ensuring all external action would be gender responsive, and is also translated in the EU Gender Action Plan II<sup>3</sup>.

The EU has valuable experiences to offer regarding adaptation to climate change in general terms, and strong examples of gender-responsive climate action at policy level. However, experience is more nascent with explicitly building gender considerations into adaptation plans and initiatives. Some good **examples within the EU** are presented in Annex 1. Annex 2 provides **examples beyond the EU** of EU's support for a range of gender-responsive adaptation actions internationally, through its instruments of external action and that of its Member States.

Key lessons from EU's domestic efforts and international support are summarised in the box below.

### **Key lessons from EU's domestic efforts and international support for mainstreaming gender considerations into national adaptation planning and action**

- Getting the right **legislative framework** in place is essential to ensure gender responsive adaptation at implementation level.
- There are two investments that always pay off in the long term: systems to generate **disaggregated data, and research** on gender disaggregated impacts of climate change, and disasters.
- Good experience exists in addressing gender in adaptation at **sectoral level**, health and agriculture among them.
- Many countries need **support** in addressing gender-responsive action in planning processes
- Multidimensional aspects of **risk exposure**, particularly for women, are especially important to capture social, economic and cultural factors.
- Women's **labour burden** is an important consideration in rural areas
- As well as bilateral action, many EU MS have advocated for changes to **multilateral funding** mechanisms to take better account of gender

<sup>1</sup> art.2, Treaty of the European Union (TEU),

<sup>2</sup> [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201803231432---BG-03-21-EU\\_submission\\_on\\_gender.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201803231432---BG-03-21-EU_submission_on_gender.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> EU Gender Action Plan II Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 ([https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/eu\\_gap\\_2017.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/eu_gap_2017.pdf))

- Alignment of **international normative frameworks** is especially important in capturing coherence across policies.

## **Main issues to consider in gender equality and adaptation**

The EU is aware that, all over the world, more must be done at national (and local) level to truly incorporate gender into adaptation action. That said, we must be careful not to overstate the commonalities between gender responsive adaptation across a range of country (and other) contexts. There are similar broad themes, but the **experiences of both gender inequality and climate risk exposure vary significantly** depending on levels of development and institutional capacity.

In general terms, the extent of gender inequality in developing countries is greater. While not a universal fact, this means that the vulnerability of women (and girls) to climate change is significantly higher than that of men. Structural inequalities in the economic, political and social spheres drive a mutually reinforcing dynamic in many contexts where **climate vulnerability exacerbates gender inequalities, and vice versa**. In many EU contexts, gender inequality does persist, but the extent to which this inequality leads to a differentiated climate vulnerability is limited. That said, in all various contexts, the experience of climate vulnerability is very likely to be different between men and women, and so gender-differentiated approaches are always justified.

In addition to their vulnerability to climate impacts, women also play a valuable role as **agents of change**. Finding appropriate adaptation solutions will always be more effective if women have equal roles in leadership, and if their voices can be heard in adaptation planning and action. To take women's needs and vulnerabilities into account, they must be able to articulate their circumstances at national and international level, but also – crucially – at local level. Women are often knowledge carriers of traditional and local knowledge in local communities, which is vital to cope with and adapt to the severe impacts of climate change, and therefore need to be more strongly incorporated when implementing adaptation measures.

**National leadership is a key element of taking gender-responsive action forward.** Political leadership, as well as ensuring that gender features in key legislation and policies are essential if wider stakeholders are to take gender into consideration. In the EU, many countries have found a high-level mandate on gender equality to be particularly powerful.

Incorporating gender into adaptation investment can also be more **complex** than in mitigation actions. Adaptation is, by definition, **non-linear, iterative and context specific**. Effective adaptation takes a **consultative** approach, bringing in ownership by local communities and a range of relevant stakeholders. A stronger

emphasis on gender-responsive adaptation forces greater consideration of the social sectors, where some of the most important gender differences manifest themselves. In these social sectors, non-linear, context-specific and collaborative approaches can be more easily pursued than in interventions (adaptation or mitigation) with a strong emphasis on technology or industry.

The gender dimension of **synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation** should also be explored (link to the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030). The specific circumstances of women in many contexts<sup>4</sup> consistently render them more vulnerable than men to the impacts of climate change and disasters. In crisis contexts, research shows that women and girls are most vulnerable and exposed to risk. Women, in particular ones living in poverty, have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. Understanding and addressing the gender dimensions of risk and vulnerability, as well as strengths and capabilities, are central to resilience building, recovery, and adaptation.

Addressing gender needs in adaptation plans also present **positive spill-over effects in protecting vulnerable groups**, such as children and the elderly, against the negative effects of climate change, given the division of family duties in many countries. This can be used as an argument to reinforce the case for including gender considerations in adaptation plans since the range of vulnerable groups would be enlarged to such segments of the population such as children and the elderly.

**Funding mechanisms must be responsive to gender needs.** At global level, efforts by the Green Climate Fund to ensure gender features in all project designs is beginning to bear fruit. At national level, gender budgeting can ensure resource allocation responds to gender analysis, as has been seen in Sweden. Integration of gender and climate across multilateral agreements and frameworks is important. For example, in many EU countries, efforts at gender-disaggregated vulnerability analysis can help with aligning the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, national climate action plans, and national plans for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Elements of successful gender-responsive adaptation action**

At an adaptation implementation level, addressing gender issues effectively can require a fundamental shift in ambition and ways of working. In general, the following key issues need to be factored in to ensure gender responsiveness:

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<sup>4</sup> Some of these characteristics that make women more vulnerable to disasters include unequal access to resources, differentiated family duties, lack of legal protection, weak decision making and power, reproductive roles, and exposure to violence.

- To understand gender differences in adaptation needs, a **solid analysis** of roles, exposure, capacity gaps, incentives, and resources disaggregated by gender will be necessary. For this, **data systems** need to start **disaggregating by gender** as standard, as well as implementing entities may require training and support in interpreting data, and addressing gender in climate responses.
- Being explicit about adaptation outcomes needing to be gender-responsive will **align incentives**, and focus at coordination and implementation levels.
- Effective **monitoring, evaluation and accountability** are critical, especially the use of gender disaggregated data in climate vulnerability assessments, and reporting progress against the Sustainable Development Goals for gender and climate, among others.
- Investment in **continuous learning** to inform adaptive management is a bedrock of good practice on both gender and climate adaptation.
- A focus on gender needs to be reflected in the organisations responsible for overseeing or funding adaptation, ideally in **organizational charts with clear gender leadership** easily identified. Better **networking** between technical experts within institutions and thus synergies between projects from sectoral divisions can also help.

In the EU's experience, there are a **range of tools** available to ensure gender-responsive approaches to adaptation. These range from legal arrangements, to data systems, research, and public outreach programmes in addition to stand-alone initiatives with a gender focus, or led by women. Tools such as the "gender glasses" used in Finland to assess gender impacts, for example in matters involving legislation and decision-making, and in the preparation of broad projects, programmes and measures, can have impact across the board. Sweden is currently developing an action plan to ensure a gender-proofed national implementation of the Paris Agreement. In Italy, Austria and France, widespread training on gender equality also contributes to gender-responsiveness in national adaptation.

Experience in disaster risk reduction provides valuable lessons on the **importance of disaggregated data**. Almost 90 percent of the countries reporting to the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) did not collect sex-disaggregated data (SADD). This made it impossible to identify the separate needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men, and boys, and therefore to promote gender equality. Furthermore, the lack of gender-disaggregated data and analysis means the full scope of disaster is not understood. This has now been reflected in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, although it is probably too early to judge the impact it has had on national implementation.

## Remaining gaps related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation

Despite various good examples in the EU and beyond, there is a broad recognition that much more progress is needed in reflecting gender considerations in adaptation. The EU would like to offer some views on what is delaying progress.

- **There is a power imbalance when it comes to decision-making.** Women tend to be poorly represented in decision-making fora on climate action. As a result gender dimensions are rarely prioritised in national policies on climate and in implementation programmes. Adaptation is no exception.
- **There is an evidence gap which limits the extent to which decision-makers are compelled to make gender sensitive climate action a priority.** More tangible evidence is urgently needed of the cost-benefit analysis of addressing gender and climate issues in a coherent way. Ensuring targeted indicators and milestones are developed to measure change will be transformational to equity (and have much broader developmental beneficial outcomes, such as health, education, economic and political empowerment, as well as mitigating violence against women and girls).
- **Lack of capacity hinders progress.** More funding and support for capacity development is needed to ensure better gender-sensitive responses.
- **A tendency to interpret gender as meaning focusing on women only.** Male champions are needed at global and local levels to work with women and support balanced decisions.
- **There is a need to systematically collect of sex-disaggregated data (SADD), and conduct evidence-based gender analysis** to enable gender-responsive assessment, planning and programming for recovery or adaptation.
- **There should be greater recognition of the fact that women are not a homogenous group.** When adopting a gender-sensitive approach to adaptation planning and implementation, the differentiation between rural vs urban, lower vs middle income, head of household vs non-head of household and disabled vs non-disabled should be considered.
- When adopting gender-sensitive approaches to adaptation, we should **remain cognisant that the social determinants of (climate) vulnerability are complex, and consider the needs and roles of women, men, trans and non-binary people** too.

## **Annex 1: Good examples of lessons learned and best practices in prioritizing/incorporating gender in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans in the EU and its Member States**

The EU and its Member States are of the view that gender responsiveness should not be dealt in isolation nor put vulnerable groups in competition, but be considered as a cross-cutting lever for more effective adaptation policies. We recall our previous submissions on gender, where we have provided many examples at both European and national levels.

At the highest level, the **European Pact for Gender Equality 2011-2020**<sup>5</sup> commits to reinforce governance through gender mainstreaming by integrating the gender perspective into all policy areas including external EU actions, by ensuring that gender equality effects are taken into account in impact assessments of new EU policies, and by encouraging the further development of existing statistics as well as indicators disaggregated by sex.

**Data collection is a critical element of gender mainstreaming, not least in adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction actions.** The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) undertakes cutting-edge work in this area. It has proposed a methodology to integrate gender in all phases of the policy cycle, and is developing practical tools for gender mainstreaming. The EIGE has published two thematic reports on the nexus between gender and climate change: Gender Equality and Climate Change<sup>6</sup> (2012), and Gender in Environment and Climate Change<sup>7</sup> (2016), touching upon issues related to women's under-representation in decision-making, gender differences in adaptation and mitigation strategies and in the effects of climate change, illustrated by some indicators.

**Data is especially crucial in looking at exposure to risk.** The Austrian government funded project GIAKlim - 'Gender Impact Assessment in the Context of Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Hazards'- focuses on the gender dimensions of natural hazards which have the probability to increase in some regions due to climate change. Within this project the term 'gender' is defined in a more comprehensive way as gender+ and includes the differences within individuals and groups in terms of their phase of life, life situation, social and cultural background.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.spcr.cz/files/en/eu/ec/Equality\\_Pact\\_2011-2020\\_119628.pdf](http://www.spcr.cz/files/en/eu/ec/Equality_Pact_2011-2020_119628.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Gender-Equality-and-Climate-Change-Report.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/ti\\_pubpdf\\_mh0216901enn\\_pdfweb\\_20170124144008.pdf](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/ti_pubpdf_mh0216901enn_pdfweb_20170124144008.pdf)

Using a case study of a debris flow in 2012 in St. Lorenz in the Palten Valley, in Austria, the research team tested methods, instruments and approaches for a **Gender Impact Assessment in the context of climate change and natural hazards**. The results show that hitherto emergency response teams are not fully aware of group- and gender specific aspects but that raising awareness for gender- and group specific aspects, needs and demands would improve the emergency response. The analysis also revealed that people without a local, social network are affected the most by the impact of a natural disaster. The outcome of the research backs the thesis that the integration of gender-specific aspects in the management and prevention of natural disasters has to be part of a comprehensive and effective approach. The goal is not to help everybody in an equal way but to provide relief to the specific needs. This implies a differentiated approach that respects the different needs and can identify these as well as equal opportunities in decision making for all groups. The case study and a literature review inform a Gender Impact Assessment for natural hazards in Austria as well as practical tools for regional, local governments and practitioners in disaster management.

**The EU has supported cutting-edge research into climate adaptation and gender.** Under Horizon 2020, the biggest EU research and innovation program, the EU has created PLACARD - PLatform for Climate Adaptation and Risk reduction. PLACARD is a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration between the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) communities.

It includes the PLACARD connectivity hub, a "search and discovery" tool which provides a highly visual, interactive, and comprehensive overview of knowledge on CCA and DRR, and links to the people producing this knowledge.

Amongst others, the hub provides links and access to a wide range of knowledge products, articles, perspectives, organizations, toolkits or trainings on gender and climate change, many of them with focus on adaptation. One of the organizations actively involved with the hub is BRIDGE, is a specialized gender and development research and information service, hosted by the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex.

**The EU has good practices to point to at sectoral or practical, implementation level.**

The overarching goal of the German Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change (DAS) is to reduce the vulnerability of nature, society and the economy in its whole, to the consequences of climate change and to maintain or increase their adaptability. This cross-cutting approach is intended to ensure that the existing objectives of the sectoral policies can also be achieved under changing climatic conditions. The requirements for action and measures are derived on the basis of regular climate impact and vulnerability analyses, where gender issues are not tackled as a



standing alone item. Vulnerable groups, which may include women and pregnant women, but also children and sick people, receive special attention, for example in the field of health.

Women are affected by health issues in many ways, whether as nursing staff in nursing homes or hospitals or as mothers. The German Adaptation Strategy to Climate change seek to improve the diagnosis of climate-change-related health risks and the special challenges in outpatient care with regard to heat-associated health problems. In order to do so, the University of Munich has developed training courses for doctors and nursing staff as part of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) support programme "Measures to deal with the consequences of climate change" (DAS support programme).

## **Annex 2: Illustrative examples of international action to incorporate gender in national adaptation planning and action supported by the EU and its Member States**

As the provider of the bulk of bilateral cooperation in the field of climate change, the EU and its Member States have derived many lessons learned from international partnerships on climate adaptation. Below is a non-exhaustive, illustrative list of examples of such cooperation.

**Many Member States have placed gender equality and climate action at the heart of their bilateral and multilateral cooperation**, embedding them as cross-cutting objectives in their own international development cooperation master plans and policies, as well as promoting the **incorporation of gender and climate considerations into the policies, programs and projects** of multilateral development banks and environmental and climate funds, and of partner countries. For example:

- Finland is currently partnering with IUCN to further strengthen **synergies between the Rio Conventions in the field of gender mainstreaming**. This project aims to advance the capacity of Parties, stakeholders and Secretariats of Rio Conventions and the GEF to accelerate gender equality mainstreaming efforts to maximize the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of initiatives, programs and projects at national level. The project includes strengthened reporting and implementation of gender mandates under the UNCCD, which has strong links with climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the development of a harmonized capacity building platform on gender and environment linkages, including a massive open online course, with the GEF Gender Partnership.

- In 2013, the French Government made the promotion of gender equality a priority, by adopting the French **Gender and Development Strategy** 2013-2017. In 2014, Agence Française de Développement defined its Strategy on Gender and the Reduction of Gender Inequalities. It is based on three priorities: prevent gender inequalities in the operations financed by France; promote gender as one of the objectives of the operations; support progress in societies on these issues. In 2019, in line with the objectives set by the French Gender and Development Strategy, 100% of AFD's supported projects are examined on the basis of OECD gender equality standards, 50% of the operations financed are rated 1 or 2 according to OECD standards and 90% of AFD's project managers have been sensitized to the gender issue. The gender issue is a central theme in AFD's new strategy for 2018-2020.
- Gender-inclusivity is a key feature of several of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development climate programmes. The BRACED Programme prioritises women driven interventions to build **adaptation and resilience to climate disasters, improve food security, nutrition and income generation**. BRACED also promotes women and girls influence and transform the way **forests** are run and managed at local and national levels. In addition to this, the Partnership for Forests Programme has introduced **tools to assess gender and social inclusion** and in particular to develop capacity on understanding **risks** inherent in many of the commodity contexts within which the programme operates, and the necessary safeguards to mitigate these in adaptation programming. A good example of this is due consideration of professionalised labour standards to ensure fair and safe work, and understanding the potential child labour implications in the cocoa sector.
- Gender-relevant projects were funded from the beginning of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), for example:
  - The Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative (GUCCI): Together with partner organizations in four countries (South Africa, India, Indonesia and Mexico), Gender CC works on the **integration of gender and social aspects into climate policies in 12 pilot cities in order to increase women's participation in urban policy**. Activities include capacity building and trainings on local level and the development of gender-responsive climate-policy recommendations. Furthermore the project aimed at developing a new method to assess local policies on their ability to integrate gender aspects into adaptation and mitigation policies. The tool 'Gender Assessment and Methodology of Adaptation and Mitigation' (GAMMA) was developed and approved within the project.

- The project “Supporting development countries to integrate the agricultural sectors into national adaptation plans (NAPs)”, jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports countries to carry out gender-responsive adaptation planning and to integrate gender policies into relevant budgets and plans for agriculture. A guidance on how to promote gender-responsive adaptation into the agriculture sectors within the NAPs was prepared<sup>8</sup>. The overall objective of the multi-year initiative is to integrate agriculture into NAPs and support partner countries in identifying and integrating climate adaptation measures for the agricultural sector into relevant national planning and budgeting processes. The project is implemented in Colombia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Vietnam and Zambia.
- The NDC Support Programme, implemented by UNDP, supports 15 countries in integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment into their climate action and strategies. Through multidimensional approaches at the national level, the programme ensures that gender equality aspects are factored into the NDC planning and implementation process. Coordinating and connecting the interlinked processes of climate change and gender equality, by using NDCs as a platform, will promote inclusive and successful outcomes, not only for achieving gender equality and climate change objectives, but also for accelerating sustainable development goals overall.
- Integration of Gender Aspects into Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Carbon Development: From 2010 until 2014 Gender CC implemented the project with the aim to **mainstream the gender dimension in climate change adaptation and low-carbon development measures** in developing countries (Bangladesh, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru) and in national and international climate policy through training. In addition, the project developed indicators and methodologies for strengthening and monitoring gender-sensitive adaptation measures and formulated proposals for political strategies.
- From 2017 until 2018, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported Jordan and in Bangladesh, with the **integration of gender aspects in climate change adaptation planning processes**.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/I8906EN/i8906en.pdf>

- In Jordan, this included analysis of gender aspects and the situation of vulnerable groups (namely **refugees**) with regard to the impacts of climate change and guidelines for the integration of these considerations into national climate change policies and the adaptation planning process: A workshop on “Gender and Vulnerable groups in Jordan within the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process and its alignment with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)” conducted by GIZ in October 2017 raised awareness of key stakeholders about the need to develop a gender and vulnerable groups’-sensitive NAP process. It mapped climate vulnerable groups in Jordan (including women and refugees) and identified potential entry points and further action to integrate gender and vulnerable groups’ considerations into the NAP. The results of the analysis were integrated in the NAP document under the chapter “Mainstreaming gender and vulnerable groups”.
- In Bangladesh, the programme made a contribution to the updated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2018 with a **chapter on gender and climate change**. Upon the request of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in Bangladesh, the Federal Government of Germany commissioned GIZ to initiate the “Climate Finance Governance” project, which contributed amongst others to the update of the BCCSAP of 2009. Following intensive stakeholder engagement, it was decided to consider gender as cross-cutting issue. Therefore, inclusion of a gender chapter with an overview of the current state of gender equality in Bangladesh and the relevance of incorporating gender into national adaptation planning was drafted. The chapter was finalized at the end of 2018; it documents lessons learned and identifies recommendations for strengthening gender integration in the updated BCCSAP.

**Attention is increasing paid also to the interactions between gender equality and climate action.** These interactions are, for example, given special emphasis in Ireland's new International Development Policy and illustrated by the fact that 80 percent of the climate-related financing provided by the Swedish International Development cooperation Agency (Sida) in the years 2013-2016 also promoted gender equality.

**There are many examples of gender-responsive adaptation efforts relating to food security and the sustainable management of natural resources.** For example:

- In 2017, The EU established the Task Force Rural Africa, a group of experts to support with advice and expertise the strengthened cooperation between EU and Africa with the aim to contribute to sustainable development and job creation in Africa's **agriculture and food sectors and rural economy**. At the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe 2018, the task force presented its key areas for action and recommendations. The central recommendation is that Africa and the EU should implement an innovative partnership for the inclusive and sustainable development of Africa's agriculture and food sectors and its rural economy, **taking into account a gender approach**. A short to medium term action recommendation focuses on mainstreaming environmental sustainability and promote climate action. Furthermore, one of the four strategic priority areas for action is on sustainable land and natural resources management and climate action. The objective is to manage Africa's land and natural resources in a sustainable manner and use opportunities for climate action as part of a strategy of systematically building resilience against the impacts of climate change.
- From 2014 until 2017, Belgium supported a project implemented by UN Women in in the Gaza Province of Mozambique, which **targets women in districts which are especially vulnerable to food insecurity and/or adverse climate events**. The project empowered rural women, as well as men, but by providing training and agricultural benefits to women, it challenged the pervasive gender stereotypes that denied women equal opportunities. The project has resulted in more women securing land tenure rights, civil registration and licenses for their businesses. As empowered, economically resilient women, they are setting better examples for girls and women in their communities and showing that early marriage is not the only way out<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/feature-mozambique-rural-women-tackle-drought-related-rise-in-child-marriage>

- In the experience of Ireland, for example from a **climate-resilient agriculture programme** in Ethiopia, it is important to conduct careful assessment on on-farm gender roles from the outset, to ensure that techniques being introduced improve the labour burden experienced by women, and do not favour crops that hinder women's access to cash within the household. In some cases post-harvesting and food storage technologies can bring both climate adaptation benefits and improve workloads for women. Labour time saved by women (for example by not having to shell maize cobs) is then freed up for family care, leisure, community roles, and other income-generating activities.
- Austria supports some specific initiatives in West-Africa and Latin-America that target the unique roles of women in driving climate actions, and the **sustainable management of natural resources**. Participatory workshops constitute the starting-point of every project, allowing the target groups to shape and guide the initiative. In the north of Argentina, Wichi and Qom women reforested a degraded area, with a view to extract fibre from the plant "chaguar" (Bromelia sp.) for their traditional handicrafts which are sold to local fairs and markets. In Paraguay, the construction of vegetable gardens aims at strengthening the food security of local and indigenous communities, of which women and their households directly benefit. In Ghana, fallow land represents a very important resource particularly for women, as they can gather in fuel wood, medicinal plants, charcoal, seeds of trees, fruit, condiments, etc. However, the rights of the farmers to the products of the fallows are not always clearly defined which consequently represents an area of potential conflicts. The project team is recording information on the management of fallow, including the rules to use these resources.

- In Ecuador, the BMZ-supported Programme ProCamBío II, BMZ supports strengthening climate change resilience of communities living in and around **fragile ecosystems** (mangrove, mountain ecosystems and tropical forest), through the **protection and sustainable use of the resources**. Among a variety of activities, the programme developed various gender-sensitive adaptation measures, which primarily seek for a better adaptive capacity of the communities, but also pursue the reduction of gender inequality, recognising the important role of women as agents of change, guardians of biodiversity, traditional knowledge and the well-being of communities. Thus, in coordination with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment, the local governments and communities, have generated spaces for dialogue and collective reflection, which provide technical advice on climate change related matters, but also raises awareness on the linkages between gender and climate change, and the importance of achieving equality of rights and opportunities for women and men.
- In Honduras, the CLIFOR programme (Community Forestry and adaptation to climate change), by implementing the **community forestry** model, aims to improve the situation of the local population in terms of the social, economic and environmental aspects of the challenges posed by climate change. The strategy of the programme is to focus on gender through various gender-sensitive measures such as vulnerability analysis with a special focus on gender, income generating measures, training in productive and organisational aspects as well as a holistic family approach.

**Gender-responsive adaptation action has also been supported in the health sector and social protection programmes, for example:**

- In Mozambique, an Irish Aid supported **nutrition and gender equality** project provides targeted training to communities affected by climate change on nutrition, and specifically nutrition during climate shocks.
- In Uganda, Irish Aid programming has targeted people living with HIV/AIDS with training in basic climate **smart agriculture** technologies and techniques, to build their climate resilience, and support their **nutrition** during climate extremes.

- In Tanzania, working with the International Institute for Environment and Development, Irish Aid has commissioned a case study research on how **climate shocks** can impact on the prevalence of **gender-based violence** and access to effective **healthcare**. The much needed evidence on climate change, health and gender linkages will inform our programming in the Health sector, with a view to using early warning meteorological data to preposition support to women, and plan for specific healthcare needs at community level. This builds on work undertaken by the Government of Tanzania on a Health Sector NAP.
  - Social Protection programmes in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi and Zambia supported by Irish Aid have undertaken operational research to explore how they can best respond to climate change, specifically by supporting the most vulnerable to adapt their livelihoods to be more climate resilient. Mozambique is **linking social protection delivery and local climate adaptation**, on the back of **statistics about vulnerability**. In Inhambane region, 57% of households are female headed and 97% of them depend on agriculture with an average land holding of 1.7 ha. Female headed households receive less support from extension services – only 4% as compared to 20% of male headed households. Under a district level intervention, the most poor and vulnerable voices (with special attention to women and girls) are now being included in local adaptation planning for risk preparedness and recovery.
-