

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Adaptation Committee seeking views on how to mainstream gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation

Contributors: this paper is submitted by WECF as a collective work of several members of the Women and Gender Constituency and partners, in particular: GenderCC, ICCAD, WECF, LIFE.

The Women and Gender Constituency acknowledges the work done by the Adaptation Committee in incorporating gender considerations into its activities. We welcome the opportunity to submit our views on how to mainstream gender into adaptation planning and implementation, and to feed into the AC's upcoming deliverables, including a plan on how best to incorporate gender considerations into (1) adaptation action and (2) the AC work plan activities.

Building effective responses to the current climate crisis requires a deep understanding of how gender inequalities affect the access and management of natural resources, the decision making processes and the synergies between the social, cultural and formal networks.

Indeed, existing gender inequalities and sociocultural norms, which affect access to and control over natural and financial resources, knowledge and decision-making power, have a major impact on women's and men's capacity to adapt to climate change. When planning and implementing climate adaptation policies, actively promoting women's rights will increase food security and resilience of communities that depend on small-scale agricultural production for food and livelihoods. However, women are largely left out of agricultural education, practical training and access to the available knowledge.

Effective adaptation strategies and implementation must take into account the differences in people's needs and abilities. In this regard, women have proven to develop climate adaptation strategies that are especially fitted to the specific needs of their communities. They have promoted the use of traditional knowledge for resilient agriculture, water source protection and energy conservation and production. Nonetheless, many challenges remain today in adopting a rights based, gender-responsive approach for the planning and implementing of climate adaptation policies.

One of the main challenges is the globally available funding for adaptation, that fails to address the needs of local communities and most vulnerable populations. International

climate finance flows are currently insufficient¹ to respond to the climate emergency and in particular public funding for adaptation is inadequate. Currently about 25% of the approved financing since 2003 flowing from the dedicated climate funds supports adaptation². Developed countries are not complying to their obligations for funding climate adaptation in developing countries, and their contributions to multilateral funds supporting adaptation remain lower than those supporting mitigation.

Multilateral Development Banks committed a total of US\$ 43,101 million to climate finance in developing and emerging economies, with mitigation finance totalling US\$ 30,165 millions while adaptation finance only US\$ 12,936 million - just 30 per cent of total commitments.

I. Our recommendations on how to integrate gender into adaptation action

Enhance the capacity and leadership of grassroots and indigenous women, building on the climate solutions they have already developed

Adaptation planning must be based on inclusive and transparent consultation processes involving women groups at local, regional and national level.

- Provide resources and capacity support to grassroots women's organizations and indigenous women's groups to enable their engagement in national climate adaptation planning processes
 - ❖ Gender-responsive adaptation planning and implementation requires further strengthening in technology development and transfer, as well as capacity-building. Awareness raising and educational programmes must be targeting also marginalised, and for example illiterate women.
 - ❖ To address current impacts and magnitude of future risks of climate change and variability in the agriculture sector, weather index-based crop insurance can be introduced and promoted. Women's access to crop insurance needs to be ensured under NDCs/NAPA at national level.
 - ❖ Recognise the local and traditional knowledge of grassroots women's groups and indigenous women, and ensure their effective participation in enhancing gender-responsive climate change policy as well as implementation, ensuring Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC);
- Provide dedicated resources for grassroots, local and indigenous women's effective participation from a bottom-up approach in national climate policies, particularly ensuring travel costs, childcare and translation resources
- Ensure documentation and reporting on activities by Countries to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation, in the design and implementation of climate projects, policies and plans, including at the subnational level, by i.e.: online consultations;

¹ According to the CCFLA report: "The State of Cities Climate Finance – 2015", 4 900 to 5 400 billion US\$ per year will be necessary in the next 15 years to catch up on investments gaps, address the transition of rural and urban territories, and gear infrastructures towards a climate-compatible path.

² Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America, Climate Funds Update - February 2019

organizing Town Hall meetings; conducting social and environmental impact studies; obtaining free prior informed consent.

Enhance gender-responsive climate finance and gender budgeting

- Support guidance to the GEF and the GCF as operating entities of the financial mechanism to increase the provision of gender-responsive climate finance (with a goal of 100% over time), including to develop simplified procedures to facilitate the direct access to climate finance for grassroots women's organizations and indigenous and local communities (e.g., national and sub-national small grants facilities under Enhanced Direct Access)
- Promote and support alternative finance models which create opportunities for women to access revenue generating activities in marginalised rural areas, where traditionally men dominate the access to formal employment. Examples of cooperatives (with democratically shared assets), self-help groups and management committees have demonstrated their potential for enabling communities to become more self-sufficient, as well as attracting financial commitment from public authorities, the private sector and civil society.
- Invite countries to ensure the provision of dedicated small grant facilities at national or regional level accessible for local women and indigenous peoples, with the aim to support their initiatives for climate adaptation and their active and equal participation in climate policy planning and implementation.
- Promote the development of gender budgeting at national and local level. Support learning, tools and seminars on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into climate finance.

Enhance gender responsive technology transfer and development

- Invite Parties to produce gender-responsive TNAs, as these will result in the development of gender-responsive adaptation plans
- Encourage and support local or national technical training programmes on technology targeted at women and women's groups. For effective adaptation action, technology transfer and development should specifically focus on communities- and ecosystem-based approaches in which women play a crucial role and have unique knowledge. For example: agro-ecology, climate resilient cropping, homestead gardening, saline resistant vegetables, fisheries culture & management in coastal areas, technology for micro-nutrient rich food, etc.
- Request the TEC to identify up-scalable and replicable projects with gender responsive technology integration, including from good and best practices (such as awards) of grassroots women's climate projects, in cooperation with CTCN, the Women and Gender Constituency and other relevant stakeholders
- Develop gender-responsive early warning systems and contingency plans to respond to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods,

landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion. Many early warning systems today do not reach women due to patriarchal cultural norms or lack of women's access to education or information. The success of early warning mechanisms depends on integrating women's knowledge, area specific assessment, and on their equal participation in the warning initiatives.

Enhance gender responsive methodologies and tools

- Vulnerability assessments, for example visualisations such as vulnerability mapping, usually look at communities, or in some cases at the household level. Yet, in order to reveal gendered vulnerabilities, intra-household disparities must be taken into account. Therefore, in particular for communities identified as highly vulnerable, the resolution of these assessments has to be higher and analyse the specific vulnerabilities related to gender.
- Adaptation planning and implementation requires the development of gender assessments in order to strengthen gender considerations in the planning and implementation of adaptation strategies:
 - for instance, the assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems should consider gender-based vulnerability index and women's contribution to adaptation.
 - another example is the assessment of women's roles in water management (see further details below)

Sharing experiences and knowledge by showcasing good practices

- In order to be able to scale-up adaptation strategies and learn from the best practices, it is fundamental to enhance tools and spaces that enable the sharing of experiences, knowledge and solutions from a worldwide perspective. Showcasing successful cases is relevant not only to inspire innovation in different corners of the world, but also to prove the effectiveness of climate action when including gender considerations in the planning and implementation of strategies. It is a way to create awareness and open the path to include gender considerations and maximise gender and social co-benefits by enhancing resilience.

II. Sharing our best practices and lessons learned

The Women and Gender Constituency launched at COP21 the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards, a programme that has been actively showcasing grassroots initiatives that promote women's rights and gender just, participatory approaches, while effectively contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation. Some of the best examples in climate adaptation are shown below:

India - Bhungroo:

Small women farmers owning and developing an innovative rainwater saving technology

Erratic rain and irrigation scarcity contribute to food insecurity, financial losses and indebtedness for small farmers in India, especially in coastal areas. Bhungroo®, a locally developed rainwater management technology, saves farmers' crops from waterlogging during monsoons and ensures adequate irrigation during dry seasons. Bhungroo brings back two harvests a year in areas that had become wastelands.

Women form their own ownership groups, learning how to construct, install, and maintain Bhungroos and provide these services to other farmers. They adapt to climate change by being able to collect, store and distribute irrigation water as needed. This model has facilitated access to irrigation and farming facilities to smallholders, with each one ensuring food-security to 30-100 rural poor, and generating income of approximately USD \$5700+ per year. This gives them the opportunity to become nutritionally and financially self-sufficient, improving women farmers' social status, formal land ownership, participation in village governance and invest in the education of their children, including girls.

These first beneficiaries and users of Bhungroo are active agents of change that have been trained and are now passing on their technical knowledge and understanding of climate adaptation.

Zambia - Green Living moment:

Community strategies for climate-resilient livelihoods

This project develops exemplary climate adaptation strategies in 4 communities of rural Zambia, working on women-farmers' appropriation of the challenges they are facing, and introducing new and diversified livelihoods. Today's main beneficiaries are 250 small-scale farming households, but further outreach to 33,000 people is planned, with a focus on women, youth and people living with disabilities. The project promotes sustainable innovations and climate-resilient practices that have been identified with and by the communities as the most appropriate.

The project has improved the adaptive capacity of the farmer households to the adverse impacts of climate change. Their resilience to climate shocks is based on the diversification of income sources, thus reducing their dependency on rainfed agriculture. This initiative has empowered women by involving them in decision-making processes on access and management of natural resources, safeguarding their right to food, rural employment, a safe environment and climate justice. After several capacity building schemes, 86 women have developed the confidence to contest in various leadership positions in their respective communities. This in turn has increased the number of women-led proposals and initiatives.

A remarkable success factor of this project is the creation of environmental youth clubs to spread information and maximizing the dissemination of knowledge; previous feasibility analysis and identification of suitable climate-resilient practices to tackle localized

challenges; engaging with the private sector and government; break the barriers for women in terms of land tenure.

**Indonesia, GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice:
Assessment of the programme “Lorong Garden” through gender-responsive methodologies**

As part of the implementation of the Gender Into Urban Climate Change Initiative (GUCCI) in Indonesia, Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice, in cooperation with Solidaritas Perempuan, have assessed through the “Gender Assessment and Monitoring of Mitigation and Adaptation” (GAMMA) methodology, Makassar’s city programme “Lorong (alley) Garden”. The Programme is a climate change mitigation and adaptation action, implemented since 2015 until 2019. Activities included in this Programme are: (1) planting vegetables and medicines in people's yards, (2) ornamental plants and Lorong arrangement, (3) garbage banks, (4) clean water, (5) repairing hallway drainage, (6) Lorong / Mabello Street Lights. This programme is under the responsibility of the Department of Environment and has been implemented in 7.000 urban halls / residential communities, spread across 153 urban villages throughout Makassar. In 2018, the Government of Makassar City targeted private Green Open Spaces.

Findings from GAMMA on the Lorong Programme contributed to the following policy recommendations elaborated by the project implementers: gender, social and economic assessments should be carried out in the expansion of private Green Open Space (through the Lorong Garden greening Programme). Moreover, it is essential to include women of the Lorong communities in the Programme, beyond the PKK members, from the design and preparation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation phases. On this aspect, a gender-responsive monitoring of the Programme, for example, would prevent that burdens already faced by women do not increase because of added domestic and community work that the Programme could potentially bring. Lastly, the recommendations address the need to provide more inclusive and sensitive education tools and facilities, including infrastructure, for children, people with disabilities and women. The implementation of the GAMMA methodology in other countries of the initiative, such as India, South Africa and Mexico, has been insightful to collect a number of other priorities for urban adaptation measures from a gender perspective, such as emphasis on resilience building, gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, improving food security, e.g. through urban gardening, safe and accessible green spaces, climate-proofing of buildings and in particular informal settlements, including water and sanitation infrastructure.

**Niger - Femmes Actions et Développement:
Recovery of water hyacinth and its transformation for environmental purposes**

Preserving the Niger River ecosystem from the impact of water hyacinth is crucial, as this invasive plant suffocates streams and prevents the collection of water for irrigation. By supporting the use of water hyacinth-based organic fertilizer, village organizations are cleaning up the water, producing their own chemical-free fertilizer, regenerating soils through the use of natural compost and improving their income and quality of life.

Women's empowerment and raising public awareness are key elements of this project associated with income generation from vegetable production, enhanced land reclamation and the use of natural fertilizer. The structuring of women's organizations trained in community life and economic management, and sensitized to the environmental impact of water hyacinth, helps to strengthen women's rights, particularly for land acquisition and participating in local life and decision-making processes.

The project can be adapted to any environment confronted with similar problems, proving its replicability and benefits.

**Ecuador, Indonesia, South Africa - LIFE and Gender CC:
Not without us! Climate and gender justice in international climate politics**

Launched in 2017, "Not without us" promotes the integration of gender justice in international climate policies and within the global climate justice movement. National and international climate policies have proven to be more effective when gender is taken into account.

The aim of this initiative is to support selected female activists which are empowered to advocate for gender justice in their local contexts, as well as in national and international spheres. Additionally, the project aims at identifying the impacts of international climate policies on gender relations at local level. It addresses the lack of data on gender and climate change. Local stakeholder workshops, networking and exchange within and among organisations have increased awareness and knowledge about gender, climate change and UNFCCC processes.

III. Remaining gaps to mainstreaming gender into adaptation policy

States must be transparent and accountable on how they are addressing persistent gaps and obstacles to gender equality and climate justice and the progress made. This is a key factor to obtain tangible results in the national adaptation planning and implementation. Below are the main gaps identified by the members of the Women and Gender Constituency.

Lack of sex-disaggregated data

Nowadays, there is still a lack of appropriate sex disaggregated data and gender analysis, having in consideration the different impacts of climate change on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples. In the absence of such data, environmental analyses remain inadequate and partial, and establishing baselines, monitoring progress and assessing outcomes is almost impossible. Most of the available statistics (i.e. access to land, subsidies, etc) are shown at the household level but do not differentiate between men and women. Data are important, but not sufficient: In order to be able to address inequalities, the underlying reasons of gender disparities have to be analysed, as well.

Lack of appropriate consultation and safe processes for women's participation

Open, participatory and safe spaces for civil society tend to close instead of being enhanced. Growing repression and attacks on women human rights and environmental defenders (WHRDs) who stand up for their rights and the rights of their communities and environment also remains an urgent challenge. In 2017, the murders of 312 human rights defenders were committed across the globe, 80 percent of which occurred in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the Philippines. In 2018, 321 human rights defenders were killed, 126 in Colombia alone.³ In the annual report 2018 of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General it was noted that intimidations and reprisals against women rights and environmental rights defenders are further increasing also for those being involved in international processes and who communicate, participate or provided legal or other assistance to victims. However, the report is very careful when it comes to documentation as it affects the life of those being intimidated and threatened and thus the report “decided not to include cases where the risk to the security and well-being of the individuals concerned, or their family members, was deemed too high.” (see page 7). This environment makes it difficult to even speak about effective and meaningful opportunities for participation.

Lack of gender responsive integration in community based adaptation

Community based adaptation (CBA) can, and has already been applied in a gender responsive way by a number of organisations. Yet, many CBA initiatives are still lacking gender considerations and are often limited to small communities in rural areas. These approaches have to be developed further in order to obligatorily include gender issues and ensure gender parity, and to be applied in urban settings, as well, in particular in informal settlements.

Lack of climate finance for adaptation at the local level

Access to international climate finance for developing states remains a challenge, but the situation is even more complex for non-state actors. For example, in Africa in 2016, only 3% of multilateral adaptation funding (USD 197 million out of USD 6.2 billion worldwide) was allocated to recipients from the private sector. These difficulties are exacerbated in rural areas, where the size of projects is too small, although rural areas are precisely those where climate vulnerabilities and gender inequalities are at the highest, and where women play a crucial role for adaptation. For example, in Benin, 6 rural towns have united in an inter-municipality structure called the “Groupement Intermunicipal des Collines” (GIC) that leads a Territorial climate Project for 2040. Despite several years of technical support by national and international experts, the GIC is struggling to mobilize multilateral climate financing and was refused funding from the African Development Bank's Adaptation Fund and Climate Fund.

³ Frontline Defenders Global Analysis 2018. Available:

https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global_analysis_2018.pdf

The Women's Major Group Position Paper 2019:

http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/WMG-2019-Position-Paper-FINAL_2.pdf

Lack of gender responsive technology transfer

The application of technologies, as well as policies to promote the dissemination of technologies, need to undergo gender assessments, as technologies are not gender-neutral. For example, many technologies are associated with certain risks, for example GMOs. Awareness of, and attitudes towards risks are gendered, with women tending to be more risk-aware and risk-averse. This has to be taken into account, as well as potential unintended impacts on gender relations arising from the application and promotion of technologies. Moreover, support for formal and non-formal education and training programmes focused on climate change information and capacity building is needed at all levels, with a particular focus on S.T.E.M. subjects, targeting women and girls at the national, regional and local levels.

Lack of access to water and sanitation needs for better adaptation practices

Globally, poor rural and urban women and children collectively spend 140 million hours per day collecting water for their families and communities risking their life, and losing precious time of productive potential. Climate change intensifies women's time and labour for water collection, sorting, conservation, distribution and management. After a flooding event, women spend additional time collecting clean water, cleaning their home, attending to greater need for sanitation, and caring for infirmed and distraught relatives. Research has shown that due to the break down of sanitation systems in Bangladesh after natural catastrophes, women and girls, in both rural and urban areas, face sanitation and bathing difficulties, which lead to increased gender based violence and urinary tract infections. Drought, saline conditions and increasing water scarcity can disrupt menstrual hygiene, sometimes resulting in vaginal infection. As waterborne or sanitation-related illnesses increase, women's time for family caregiving also intensifies. Therefore, adaptation policies should particularly take into consideration and address the persisting gender inequalities characteristic for access to water and water management.

Lack of good water governance across territories and countries

Climate change also increases conflicts over competing water uses. Scarce water is allocated across multiple uses and users, including potable water for humans and animals, irrigation, water for hydropower, and business usage. Water governance should ideally offer opportunities to bring issues of water access to public scrutiny, since provision and access may be skewed in favor of more powerful members of communities, such as elite men and women and industries [i]. This weakens the chances for poorer women (and men) to voice their adaptation options in drought and flood contexts, as well as water supply for households and field.

IV. Useful sources relevant to the topic

Below is a list of sources recommended by the Women and Gender Constituency:

- **Gender Just Climate Solutions 2015 to 2018**
WECF and Women and Gender Constituency
<http://womengenderclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-Gender-Just-Climate-Solutions-English.pdf>
- **GIM Tool - The Gender impact assessment and monitoring tool, 2018**
WECF
<https://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FINAL-GIM-Tool-Jan-19.pdf>
- **A tale of multiple disconnects: Why the 2030 Agenda does not (yet?) contribute to moving German gender equality struggles forward, 2019**
Hannah Brikenkötter, Gabrielle Köhler, Anke Stock - UN Women
<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/disconnects-2030-agenda-germany-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1832>
- **Global Gender and Environment Outlook, The Critical issues, 2016**
UNEP
http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7628/-Global_gender_and_environment_outlook_The_critical_issues-2016ggeo_summary_report.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y
- **Gender and climate change: working towards gender-sensitive national climate policy, 2014**
Gender CC - Women for Climate Justice e.V
<https://gendercc.net/resources/gendercc-publications.html>
- **Routledge Handbook of Human Rights and Climate Governance, 2018**
Edited by Sébastien Duyck, Sébastien Jodoin, Alyssa Johl
- **Climate Finance Thematic Briefing: Adaptation Finance, 2019**
Liane Schalatek - Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Charlene Watson - Overseas Development Institute
https://us.boell.org/sites/default/files/cff3_2018_english-digital.pdf