

Gender and Social Inclusion in GCF Projects

Understanding Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing and addressing the different needs and impacts of climate action on women and men, ensuring gender considerations are integrated into all aspects of project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Social inclusion complements this by actively promoting the meaningful participation and equitable benefit-sharing for all individuals and groups, particularly those facing marginalisation or exclusion due to factors like ethnicity, disability, age, or socioeconomic status. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) recognizes that both gender equality and social inclusion are essential for achieving transformative change and sustainable climate action, as they ensure that climate solutions are just and equitable for everyone.

Why Gender Mainstreaming Matters

- **Climate change impacts women and men differently:** Women are often disproportionately affected by climate change due to existing gender inequalities and social norms.
- **Women are agents of change:** Women possess valuable knowledge and skills that can contribute to effective climate solutions.
- **Gender mainstreaming leads to more sustainable outcomes:** Projects that address gender inequalities and empower women are more likely to achieve long-term success and resilience.

GCF Gender Policy and Toolkit

The GCF has a Gender Policy and a Toolkit for Mainstreaming Gender that provide guidance on how to integrate gender considerations into project design and implementation. The policy emphasises the importance of understanding gender relations, roles, and responsibilities, and how these influence



decision-making, access to resources, and vulnerability to climate change. The toolkit offers practical tools and methods for conducting gender analysis, adopting gender-responsive approaches, and measuring gender outcomes and impacts. The toolkit can be accessed here: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/mainstreaming-gender-green-climate-fund-projects>

Key Steps in Gender Mainstreaming

1. **Conduct a gender analysis:** This involves collecting and analysing data on gender roles, relations, and inequalities in the project context, and assessing the potential gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and the proposed project.
2. **Adopt gender-responsive methods and tools:** This includes designing project activities and interventions that address the specific needs and priorities of women and men, and ensuring that women have equal access to benefits and opportunities.
3. **Measure outcomes and impacts:** This involves establishing gender-sensitive indicators and collecting data to track progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Gender in the GCF Project Cycle

Gender mainstreaming should be integrated throughout the entire project cycle, from project identification to monitoring and evaluation. The Concept Note, which is the initial proposal submitted to the GCF, should include a description of the gender context, gender-responsive interventions, and expected gender impacts. The full funding proposal should include a detailed Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan, outlining how gender will be addressed throughout the project.



Budgeting for Gender Mainstreaming

It is important to allocate adequate resources for gender mainstreaming activities, including gender analysis, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation. The budget should reflect the specific gender needs and priorities identified in the project context.

Conclusion

Gender and social inclusion are essential considerations for effective and sustainable climate action. By mainstreaming gender throughout the project cycle, GCF projects can contribute to transformative change that benefits both women and men, and builds a more just and equitable future for all.

Check your knowledge



Use the questions below to test your understanding of Gender and Social Inclusion in GCF projects.

Basic Understanding

1. What is gender mainstreaming in the context of climate action, according to the UNFCCC and GCF?
2. Explain the concept of intersectionality and its relevance to gender and social inclusion.
3. Why is gender mainstreaming crucial for climate change initiatives, according to the GCF Gender Policy?

Application and Analysis

1. How does climate change disproportionately impact women, and what factors contribute to their greater vulnerability?
2. What are the three core components of the GCF's approach to gender mainstreaming?

3. Which sections of the Concept Note require specific attention to gender considerations?
4. What are some common challenges or pitfalls observed in the field regarding gender mainstreaming in projects?
5. What guiding questions can be used during a gender assessment for a GCF project?

Critical Thinking and Contextual Understanding

1. How can project proponents ensure that gender mainstreaming is not just an add-on but is integrated throughout the project cycle?
2. Discuss the importance of budgeting for gender-related activities at the Full Funding Proposal stage.
3. How can the concept of 'transformational change' be linked to gender mainstreaming in climate projects?
4. What role do women and women-led organisations play in ensuring gender-equitable participation in GCF projects?