

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

This study aimed to assess the degree of engagement of “women and gender-related groups” in the Climate Investment Funds’ (CIF) governance, investment planning, project design, and implementation.¹ It identified approaches, enabling conditions, and barriers for this engagement in CIF processes, as well as lessons on its impacts across CIF programs. The study sought to document best practices for gender mainstreaming and provide important transferrable learning to CIF, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and other climate finance mechanisms to enhance the inclusive engagement of women and gender-related groups in future investments.

CONTEXT

Global climate finance mechanisms are increasingly recognizing the strong linkages between the goals of gender equality and sustainable low-carbon development. The key to these efforts is to engage women and gender-related groups in the design and implementation of projects and programs. This can ensure that diverse priorities, needs, and interests are represented in project identification, as well as larger fund and climate governance processes.

CIF has made a strong commitment to gender equality outcomes and the engagement of local stakeholders in CIF governance and programming through its CIF Gender Policy, CIF Gender Action Plans, and the staffing of a CIF Gender Program that started in 2014. The CIF Gender Program has sought to enhance the gender-transformative impacts of CIF investments in pilot countries. It has focused on bolstering women’s asset positions, voices, and resilient livelihoods by promoting the responsiveness of institutions and markets to gender issues. This study examined how the CIF investment cycle engaged women and gender-related groups across CIF programs, as well as how this engagement impacted country-level project design and implementation.

KEY FINDINGS

This study found diverse engagement pathways for women and gender-related groups in CIF governance and programming:

- At the country level, broader institutional developments at the nexus of climate change and gender equality created an enabling environment for women and gender-related groups to engage in CIF.** Important factors that created an enabling environment for CIF’s gender-responsive approaches to be implemented effectively



QUICK FACTS

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CIF PROGRAM(S)

All CIF programs (CTF, FIP, PPCR, and SREP)

EVALUATION FIRM

Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

RELEVANT COUNTRIES

Consultative workshops and desk review of projects in Bangladesh and Jamaica.

Desk review of projects in Brazil, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Turkey, Ukraine, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

To access full study please, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

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¹ “Women and gender-related groups” refer to women’s groups/organizations; women-led direct beneficiary groups and other direct women beneficiaries; gender machineries defined as formal government structures aiming to promote gender equality; as well as gender experts/specialists and gender expert groups.

included: the presence of gender policies and their linkages to climate change policies and entities; a gender focus within key implementing ministries, including the establishment of gender focal points; as well as the incorporation of gender-related provisions and language in the Intended Nationally-Determined Contributions (INDCs) under the Paris Agreement and National Adaptation Plans.

These factors also facilitated the engagement of women, women's groups, and their networks in CIF processes. In Mexico for example, CIF's Forest Investment Program (FIP), in collaboration with the National Women's Institute, sought to help the National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) better engage women and gender-related groups in achieving shared national goals around forestry, climate change, and gender equality. It achieved this through a multi-level approach that included CONAFOR gender planning and staff capacity-building on gender integration, as well as enhanced technical support at the field level, primarily targeted at productive forest enterprises led by women in indigenous communities.

2 CIF governance structures and programs included mechanisms to engage women and gender-related groups in CIF project design and implementation. These mechanisms entailed the establishment and inclusion of gender representatives among Observers², as well as the CIF Administrative Unit's accountability and support via the CIF Gender Policy, CIF Gender Action Plans, Programmatic Approach, and Results Frameworks. Through the establishment of CIF's MDB Gender Working Group in 2014, the CIF Gender Team has facilitated increased collaboration and support across CIF countries and MDBs on gender-responsive investments. The CIF Gender Team has also strengthened engagement and efforts on gender integration in operations through knowledge-sharing on gender good practices on participatory approaches.

3 In investment plan development and project planning and implementation, CIF programs demonstrated a positive trend in engaging with women and gender-related groups. By engaging with women and gender-related groups as direct beneficiaries, CIF investments across programs succeeded in improving gender equality outcomes in beneficiary countries, which included employment opportunities, income generation, and overall well-being, in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and climate technologies. Through CIF programs, project teams also increasingly engaged with women and gender-related groups as stakeholders. This engagement has been recognized as a crucial contributor to the success of project design and implementation.



Participants in the Bangladesh in-country workshop consultation.

4 Data collection on the engagement of women and gender-related groups in CIF has improved due to strengthened guidance and policy requirements on gender considerations for the Monitoring and Reporting of CIF programs. Such guidance increases accountability for monitoring the extent to which gender analysis and targeted activities have been included in the design and implementation of investment programs and projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study's findings, a range of measures were recommended to further enhance the engagement of women and gender-related groups in CIF design and implementation:

- Ensure that CIF requirements stipulate the engagement of diverse groups and stakeholders, including women and gender-related groups, in planning, monitoring, and reporting processes;
- Continue efforts to raise the awareness of the existence and roles of women's organizations, women, and gender-related groups in CIF processes among CIF recipient countries and MDBs;
- Engage CIF Observers to map women's organizations in countries;
- Encourage reporting requirements on the engagement of women's organizations, women, and gender-related groups (including gender machineries) in CIF at the country level;
- Allocate specific resources in CIF projects for the initial and sustained engagement of women and gender-related groups at the national and sub-national levels; and
- Facilitate national gender and climate change training, including capacity building for women and gender-related groups, to enhance their engagement in CIF processes.

² Observers — representatives from the civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples, and local communities — constitute the core of CIF's governance structure.