

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

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MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO CLIMATE CHANGE INVESTMENTS AT THE EBRD

(SUBMISSION BY EBRD)

Mainstreaming Gender into Climate change at EBRD

Gender at the EBRD

On 16th April 2013, the Board of EBRD approved the Strategic Gender Initiative. This document sets out the orientation for the EBRD's work in promoting and strengthening its approach to leveraging the untapped potential of women in its countries of operation. In 2009, the Bank devised a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to promote equality of opportunity and women's empowerment through its projects and seek to prevent gender discrimination and mitigate inequalities. The GAP was developed with the distinct features of a project-based and transition-focused institution in mind.

Over the three years of implementation of the GAP, progress has been made with introducing gender considerations into the Bank's operations whilst the Environment and Social Policy (2008) and related project Performance Requirements (PRs) have remained the key operational tool for addressing gender issues. Both of these address gender issues from a risk mitigation perspective and ensure compliance with relevant International Labour Organisation (ILO) principles and conventions. The ESP contains aspirational goals of building good environmental and social opportunities (and implicitly gender-related opportunities), however its primary objective is as a "safeguard" policy and its effectiveness as an instrument to promote gender-equal economic empowerment and address gender gaps remains limited

The Bank recognises that gender equality is a fundamental aspect of a modern, well-functioning market in as much as it contributes to the efficient use of all resources. This document reviews the Bank's initial lessons learned following on from three years of GAP implementation, identifies the specific gender areas where the Bank can best add value given its business model and mandate and identifies the key areas where the Bank will focus its limited resources, in light of the EBRD's 2013 gender inclusion gap analysis. The Strategic Initiative also comes at a critical time in the development of the Bank's operations in the southern and eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region.

Importantly, this document sets out the framework for the Bank's approach to gender equality within its projects over the short-term and provides an analysis of the gender gaps in the EBRD's countries of operations and potential countries of operations in SEMED, and identifies how the Bank will address these gaps, in line with its mandate and business mode and how it shall assess and monitor the broader impact of EBRD projects in promoting economic opportunity for women.

The Strategic Gender Initiative will be implemented within the orientations set out in the Fourth Capital Resources Review (CRR4) and future CRRs. That is, projects with a gender component or focus will conform to the CRR4 sectoral and thematic priorities and business plans will continue to be aligned with CRR4 indicative targets and expectations. Country specific priorities, including for gender, will of course be subject to review and confirmation by the Board in the context of forthcoming country strategies and updates.

Climate Change and Gender at EBRD

EBRD recognises that climate change has different effects on women and men due to their different roles in society and their unequal access to and control over social, economic and physical resources. Therefore it is important for EBRD to understand the links between gender and climate change in terms of vulnerability and adaptation to stress that have the potential to worsen the economic and social situation of men and women in the regions where EBRD works.

As has been established elsewhere, women and men are differently affected by climate change, react differently to its impacts and, given the choice, favour different solutions to mitigate and to adapt with the consequences of climate change. Women can be disproportionately affected by droughts, floods and heat waves.

Furthermore, women have different needs in terms of energy and mobility than most men. They can also contribute to mitigation, given their role in household and society.

Women are more willing than men to change their behaviour in order to save energy and purchase low-carbon emitting products; however, they often know less about their own energy consumption and they reject measures that would burden them with extra work.

EBRD believes that financing facilities/mechanisms should include a gender component and consideration because

- Climate financing, should use scarce resources in an efficient and equitable way.
- Observations from projects are show that such financing can create opportunities for employment and better services for women and men, for example)
- Results are often enhanced through understanding the different roles and priorities of men and women , if these are addressed in project design and implementation

Gender Considerations in EBRD's Climate Change Investments

Now that Gender team has been expanded to three gender specialists, and the Strategic Gender Initiative has been approved, all projects which focus on climate change and adaptation are screened by the Gender Team, to assess gender issues and identify what can be done to enhance the investment.

1. Small Business Climate Resilience Financing Facility in Tajikistan

Tajikistan is regarded as the country most vulnerable to climate change in the EBRD region. Analysis by the World Bank (2008) ranked Tajikistan as the most climate-vulnerable country in the ECA region (see figure) due to the highly climate-sensitive nature of its glacial hydrological systems, the extremely heavy dependence of the Tajik economy and livelihoods on water and energy resources that depend upon the glacial hydrology (especially hydropower and irrigation), as well as the low income levels and generally low levels of institutional capacity in central and local government.

Energy security is another important facet of Tajikistan's vulnerability to climate change. For example, during the severe winter of 2008 many households, especially in rural areas on the peripheries of the grid, had no access to energy for heating and cooking. Urban households were also badly affected as they did not have alternative coping strategies (such as the use of firewood) that rural communities could fall back on

Gender mainstreaming/component: the TC will review any studies carried out on understanding how women and men use appliances at home, make their purchasing decisions and carry out some qualitative studies to understand this sector better.

Activities:

Phase 1:

- Analysis of appliances used in the home (by men and women) for which there may be a demand for improved water and energy use improvements.
- Development of recommendations on the eligibility criteria for sub-loans for water and energy use improvements; Development of an initial pipeline of potential sub-loans both for businesses and home use;
- Assessment of general awareness of the public of the need for climate resilience water and energy technologies and preparation of a plan to engage on these issues, with a differentiated approach outlined taking into consideration gender, age and rural/urban divide etc.

Phase 2:

- Implementing a public outreach programme to increase awareness of the issues, with differentiated approaches used according to the target audience with factors such as gender, age and urban/rural being taken into consideration.
- Training and capacity building activities:
 - o Training for sub-borrowers in use of climate resilience technologies (e.g. drip irrigation, water recycling, etc.) in both commercial and residential sectors.
 - o Training for loan officers in structuring and approving sub-loans for climate resilience technologies for both commercial and residential use (including different styles of communication needed etc) .

2. CTF Investment Plan, district heating project in Ukraine

Within the CTF's policy orientations, there has been growing interest in assessing the co-benefits of financing climate operations, where co-benefits could arise in areas such as employment, health, poverty, and gender equality .

The Bank is looking to develop a pilot project approved under CTF frameworks in Ukraine or Kazakhstan with a gender component in the district heating (DH) sector.

Activities related to gender equality:

- Access to Employment

Traditionally employment within the district heating sector has been male-dominated, much of which has arisen from the fact that historically the sector has not been attractive to the female population given the nature of the work involved. The introduction of more sophisticated automatic heating systems allows for there to be a targeted approach towards expanding employment opportunities to encompass both genders equally

Customer orientation of service delivery: Bill collection is the primary interface between service providers and customers. Given that, generally, in much of the EBRD's region women are responsible for settling the heating bills the promotion of female bill collectors could enhance customer engagement and provide for tangible improvements in service delivery.

- Access and more efficient use of Services

In the Bank's region a lack of awareness in the energy conservation of district heating can be an issue among heat users. Ultimately the provision of training, or the production of related marketing material, on energy conservation to women - the primary users of heat - could lead to quantifiable benefits both in terms of conservation and cost efficiency.

Lugansk and Lutsk District Heating Feasibility studies

The proposed projects aims at financing the rehabilitation and modernisation of the district heating system in Lugansk and Lutsk, Ukraine, including energy efficiency investments in public buildings.

To tackle the differentiated needs of women and men related to access to heating, the activities related to gender equality are:

- In the baseline study, compile and present sex disaggregated data on household incomes, household sizes, sexual division of labour and incomes by gender, including head households, average expenditures for essential goods by sex, etc.;
- Analyse the affordability of the investment of male and female for different income groups.

3. Tajikistan: Enhancing the Climate Resilience of the Energy Sector

This Programme aims to enhance the climate resilience of Tajikistan's energy sector through a multi-layered approach, with a specific focus on Sughd province which will facilitate targeted interventions that generate lessons and experience than can subsequently be transferred elsewhere in Tajikistan.

Gender equality:

Among the main objectives of the Programme is to support the development of an improved framework for evidence-based policy-making and investment planning in the energy sector, taking into consideration climate change projections and the climate vulnerabilities and energy needs of households and businesses. This will include specific considerations of the needs of men and women

with respect to their energy needs as well as those of vulnerable groups, in order to a) establish how and when to plan outages so as not to disproportionately affect women or men and b) establish a favourable environment for investments and reforms that promote climate resilience and energy security;