

Bridging the GAP from Access to Action: NGCCFP training on climate finance and gender Green Climate Fund briefing note

The [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (decision 1/CP. 27) invited Parties to provide support to developing countries for undertaking gender related action and implementing the GAP. An important element for the implementation of this mandate is to ensure gender-responsive climate finance. The [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#) is the world's largest dedicated climate fund. It serves as an [operating entity of the Financial Mechanism under the UNFCCC](#), also serving the Paris Agreement. The [GCF has been committed to mainstreaming gender perspectives](#) from the outset of its operations as an essential decision-making element for the deployment of its resources.

GCF is mandated to equally support adaptation and mitigation in developing countries and use a country-driven approach that prioritizes direct access and targets the most vulnerable developing countries. As part of this critical mandate, the GCF mainstreams gender across all interventions, and ensures that climate action goes beyond gender-sensitivity, to gender-responsiveness. [Gender mainstreaming](#) is central to the GCF's objectives and guiding principles, including through engaging women and men of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of strategies and activities that we finance.

The GCF promotes a paradigm shift towards low emission and climate resilient development pathways, and gender equality is key to sustainable development. GCF requires that all projects and programmes seeking finance need to include both a gender assessment with baselines, and a gender action plan with concrete deliverables. This requirement has been further strengthened in the GCF's [Gender Policy](#) (updated in November 2019).

Women and vulnerable communities are part of the solution to climate change and should be effectively engaged in discussions and decisions that affect them. GCF's [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#) also has, as one of its objectives, to ensure that GCF-financed activities pay particular attention to the different challenges faced by women and girls and other groups within indigenous communities. The Fund promotes the participation and leadership of indigenous women in GCF activities, given their role as traditional knowledge holders and custodians of cultural and spiritual heritage and values. Climate change initiatives are more sustainable, equitable and more likely to achieve their objectives when gender equality and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the design and implementation of projects.

GCF provides technical and capacity-building support to the development of gender policies and national adaptation plans. It also provides support through the [GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme](#), with support available to countries to build their capacities at accreditation and as they develop their Funding Proposals (including for the development of gender assessments and gender action plans).

GCF also supports activities to enable the participation of women and girls in dialogues and forums, towards gender-balanced representation. The importance of getting women's voices at the table in project development and decision-making is a priority within the GCF. Gender mainstreaming is important at project origination stage, but we also emphasize that it is equally important throughout the programming cycle, all the way through to project monitoring and beyond.