

LEVERAGING CO-BENEFITS BETWEEN GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

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This guidebook addresses two of the greatest sustainable development challenges of our time: climate change and gender inequality – the most pervasive human rights violation. It aims to help practitioners and stakeholders integrate gender equality considerations in climate change projects and leverage development co-benefits between gender equality and climate action.

Why has UN Women produced this guidebook?

The impacts of climate change, including on access to productive and natural resources, amplify existing gender inequalities. Climate change affects women's and men's assets and well-being differently in terms of agriculture and food security, health, water and energy, and climate change-related migration, conflict and natural disasters. In addition, women and girls typically carry the largest burden of unpaid care and domestic work, which only increases in a changing climate. Women often have primary responsibility for food, water and fuel provisioning; thus changes in their availability due to climate-induced drought and scarcity affect the time and level of effort required to collect or produce, store, and distribute these resources.

But women are also powerful agents of change who respond to climate impacts and take climate action. They are key actors in building community resilience and responding to climate-related disasters. Women as economic and political actors can influence policies and institutions

towards greater provision of public goods, such as energy, water and sanitation, and social infrastructure, which tend to matter more to women and support climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

Systematically addressing gender gaps in responding to climate change is one of the most effective mechanisms to build the climate resilience of households, communities and nations. The growing recognition of the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls has been matched in recent years by the rising awareness of their roles as change agents and the tremendous value of gender equality and women's empowerment for producing social, economic, and climate resilience benefits.

This evolution is reflected in the progress made towards integrating gender into climate negotiations, climate

BOX 1

Paris Climate Agreement on Gender Equality:

“Parties should when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”

planning and climate action, as demonstrated by the efforts for the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the gender equality considerations in the recent UNFCCC Paris Agreement. Yet the key challenge remains: to systematically incorporate gender equality and women’s empowerment strategies in climate change responses at the local, national and international levels. This signifies a paradigm shift that puts gender concerns and the voice and agency of women and girls, and men and boys, at the center of adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management efforts.

What does this guidebook cover?

This guidebook is part of UN Women’s and its partners’ efforts to champion such a paradigm shift. It is divided into three parts. The first part offers an overview of the development co-benefits between gender equality and climate change. The second part introduces climate finance concepts, sources and instruments. The third part covers gender mainstreaming in the project cycle, emphasizing gender-responsive project formulation and design.

Because of their critical importance in catalyzing climate finance, the guidebook addresses in greater detail the three UNFCCC financing mechanisms: the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF). A companion manual also produced by UN Women, “Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects,” illustrates how the methodologies and tools discussed in this guidebook can be applied to mainstream gender in GCF project design and implementation.

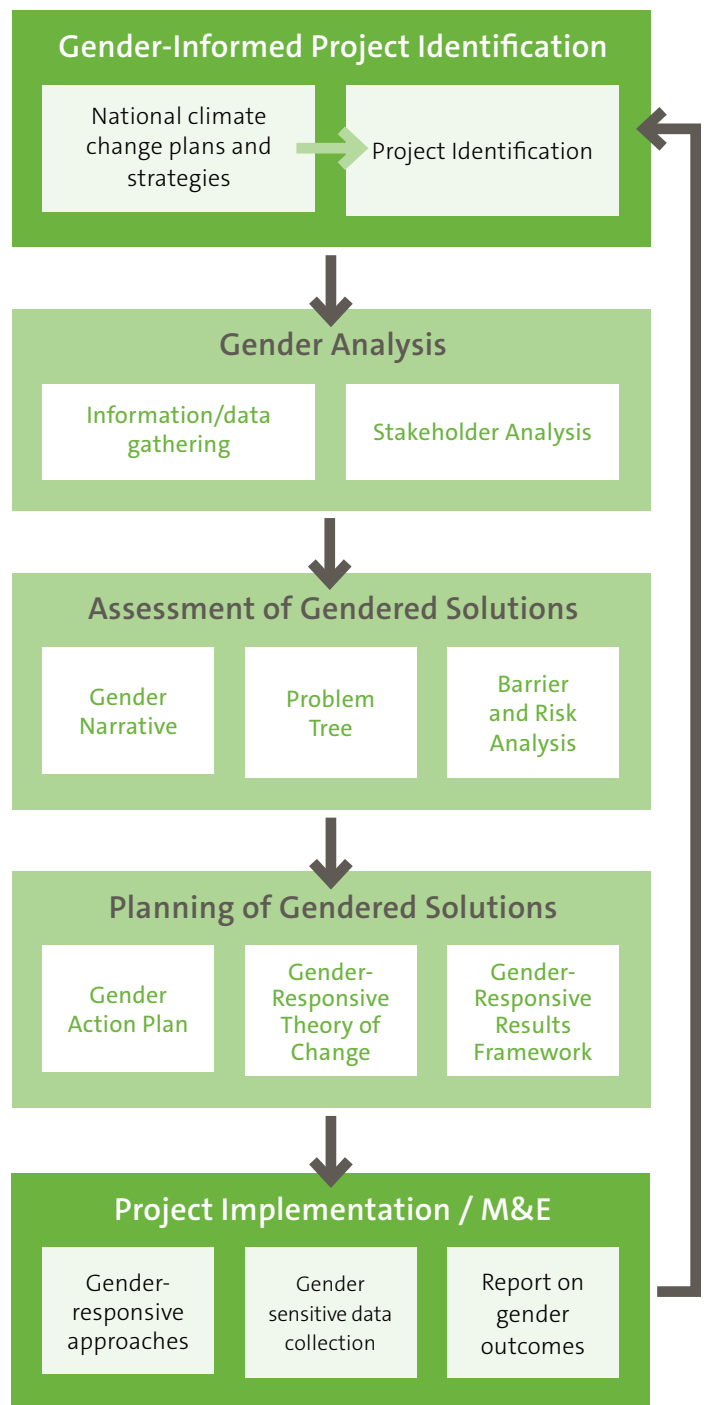
How to access the guidebook and related materials?

This guidebook is available through a UN Women Training Centre web page on “Leveraging Co-Benefits between Gender Equality and Climate Action for Sustainable Development” at <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org>. UN Women project documents applying the methodologies and tools described in this guidebook to address the gender gaps in sustainable energy and climate-smart agriculture can be found on the same web page, as well as peer-reviewed papers describing the technical foundations of these methodologies and tools in greater detail.

For more information on this guidebook and UN Women’s work on development co-benefits between climate change and gender equality, please contact:

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FIGURE 1
Gender Mainstreaming in the Project Cycle



Cover photo: As part of the CCAFS Farms of the Future project in Nepal, small farmers visit their “future climates” to learn about how communities cope with higher temperatures and different rainfall patterns.