



# Gender-Responsive Climate Finance

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# WEDO's Work In This Arena

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- History of engagement: observing CIF and GCF, advocating for gender-responsive approaches as we followed and researched developments in climate finance
- 2011 report, *Governing Climate Funds: What Will Work for Women?*, highlighted key ways for climate funds to integrate gender:
  - A strong and comprehensive gender policy
  - Direct access finance
  - Climate finance in the form of grants
  - Capacity-building at the country level
  - Capacity-building at the climate fund level
  - Gender-equity at the climate fund level
  - Equal gender consultation at the local levels
  - Standardized sex-disaggregated data collection and gender analysis
  - Accountability
  - An understanding of gender inequalities within local climate contexts

# WEDO's Work In This Arena

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- Since 2017, our research has focused on experiences and potential for women's organizations and gender machineries in climate finance
  - Mapping engagement pathways for women's organizations to the four primary climate funds, with Prospera International Network of Women's Funds
  - Understanding women's organizations' and national gender machineries' engagement processes and outcomes with the CIF, through their Evaluation and Learning Initiative.
- Via our research and informed by our work alongside feminist organizations and movements, particularly via the Women & Gender Constituency, can speak to the challenges of women's organizations' engagement and the importance of recognizing and enabling their contributions

# Why Is Engagement Important?

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The inclusion of women as participants and leaders in decision-making processes and the promotion of their rights contributes to stronger environmental outcomes:

- Countries with higher proportions of women in their national legislative bodies are more likely to approve environmental agreements (Norgaard and York, 2005)
- Countries in which women are closer to men in status, rights, and opportunities have lower per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Ergas and York, 2012); likewise, more women in a country's governing bodies is associated with a lower climate footprint, controlling for both domestic and international drivers (McKinney et al., 2015)
- Taking gender into account has been shown to enhance the effectiveness of policies across both developed and developing countries (e.g., Buckingham, 2007; Voucharas & Xefteris, 2018); even when gender quotas are used, evidence indicates projects are more effective and that benefits are more equally distributed (Cook et al., 2019).

# Why Is Engagement Important?

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The inclusion of women and women's organizations contributes to the achievement of climate finance goals, with outcomes including improvement of the following:

- effectiveness and efficiency of technical assistance and development funding (Adams et al, 2014; OECD, 1999)
- progress toward social justice (Okereke & Coventry, 2016; Beckman, 2013; Bond, 2012; Kronsell, 2013; Randall, 2016; Shonkoff, Morello-Frosch, Pastor, & Sadd, 2009)
- alleviation of poverty and promotion of sustainable development (Alston, 2013a; UNDP, 2013; Salehi et al., 2015)
- effectiveness of disbursed climate finance (UNDP, 2013; Adams, Zusman, Sorkin, & Harms, 2014; Schalatek & Nakhoda, 2014; Wong, 2016)

# Women's Organizations' Role

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- Women's rights organizations, feminist organizations, and other gender-related groups can offer climate solutions that are localized but scalable, draw from local expertise and indigenous knowledge, and realize co-benefits of sustainable development. This is vital work being done on the ground that can contribute substantially to climate responses.
- The inclusion of sex-disaggregated targets for activities and/or gender equality as a goal does not entail the consultation, engagement, or involvement of women's organizations.
- The inclusion of these organizations, though, is both a pathway to meeting gender-related targets and objectives, and a separate, valued aspect of gender-responsive finance.

# Structural Barriers to Funding

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- We know the climate finance architecture is generally oriented toward larger projects and initiatives entities with the demonstrated capacity to deliver on that level.
- IIED researchers estimated that the flow of international, regional, and national climate funds to the local level between 2003-2006 was less than 10% (Soanes et al., 2017).
- Women's organizations tend to receive little funding from other sources:
  - ~1% of the DAC members' aid focused on gender equality and women's empowerment went to women's organizations in 2015-2016 (Staszewska, Dolker and Miller, 2019).
  - Less than 3% of philanthropic environmental giving was flowing to women's environmental activism in 2014 (Dobson and Lawrence, 2018).

# Challenges of Engagement

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- Multilateral climate funds are still building their capacity to address gender in a more comprehensive manner; proactively engaging women's organizations is not standard practice.
- Government units overseeing climate finance, often ministries of finance or the environment, usually do not recognize the role and potential contributions of women's organizations. Women's organizations tend to have relationships with ministries of gender or women's affairs, if at all.



# Challenges of Engagement

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- Limited staff, funding, operational systems, and technical know-how on climate change are aspects of women's organizations' lack of capacity to connect with climate finance partners and funds.
- Women's organizations often seek direct funding for their existing projects; the structure of the funds meriting their engagement through partnerships, providing technical expertise, etc. requires additional capacity, relationships, and effort.

# Select Examples of Engagement, Cultivation of Enabling Environments

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## Green Climate Fund

- Observer feedback on funding proposals has resulted in enhancements to gender action plans as well as improvements to approach, such as with FP069 (Bangladesh).
- The Mongolian Women's Fund (MONES) and the Mongolian NDA developed an MOU to outline the ways in which MONES' expertise is contributing to their work.

## Climate Investment Funds

- WEDO has supported criteria on gender as the CIF enhances its approach.
- In Mexico, INMUJERES, the national gender machinery, engaged with the FIP Investment Plan, contributing to an enabling environment with targets, processes, and practices for engaging women's groups.

## Adaptation Fund

- NEW: Notifying the appointed National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points of a technical assistant grant on gender for NIEs resulted in at least one application for this capacity-building opportunity.

# Looking Forward

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- Recognizing women's organizations' involvement in climate finance is a dimension of gender-responsive climate finance that poses challenges and opportunities.
- There is a lot of interest from women's organizations in engaging further, and growing recognition that they need specific resources to do so.
- WEDO recognizes that mapping and/or matchmaking the women's organizations in an area could be useful to funds and entities and hopes to move forward with this work.
- Beginning to capture women's organizations' involvement may require project, entity, and fund-level work.
- There is room and opportunity at a project-level for women's organizations to be included in planning; e.g. gender action plans under the GCF noting the number of women's organizations that should be involved in certain activities.

# Discussion

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- Contact: [tara@wedo.org](mailto:tara@wedo.org).
- List of resources available upon request.