



Climate & Development
Knowledge Network

Advocacy strategies for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion integration in climate policy and action

Skills Lab

SB 64 Bonn, Germany
CDKN Team
June 13, 2026

CDKN alliance partners



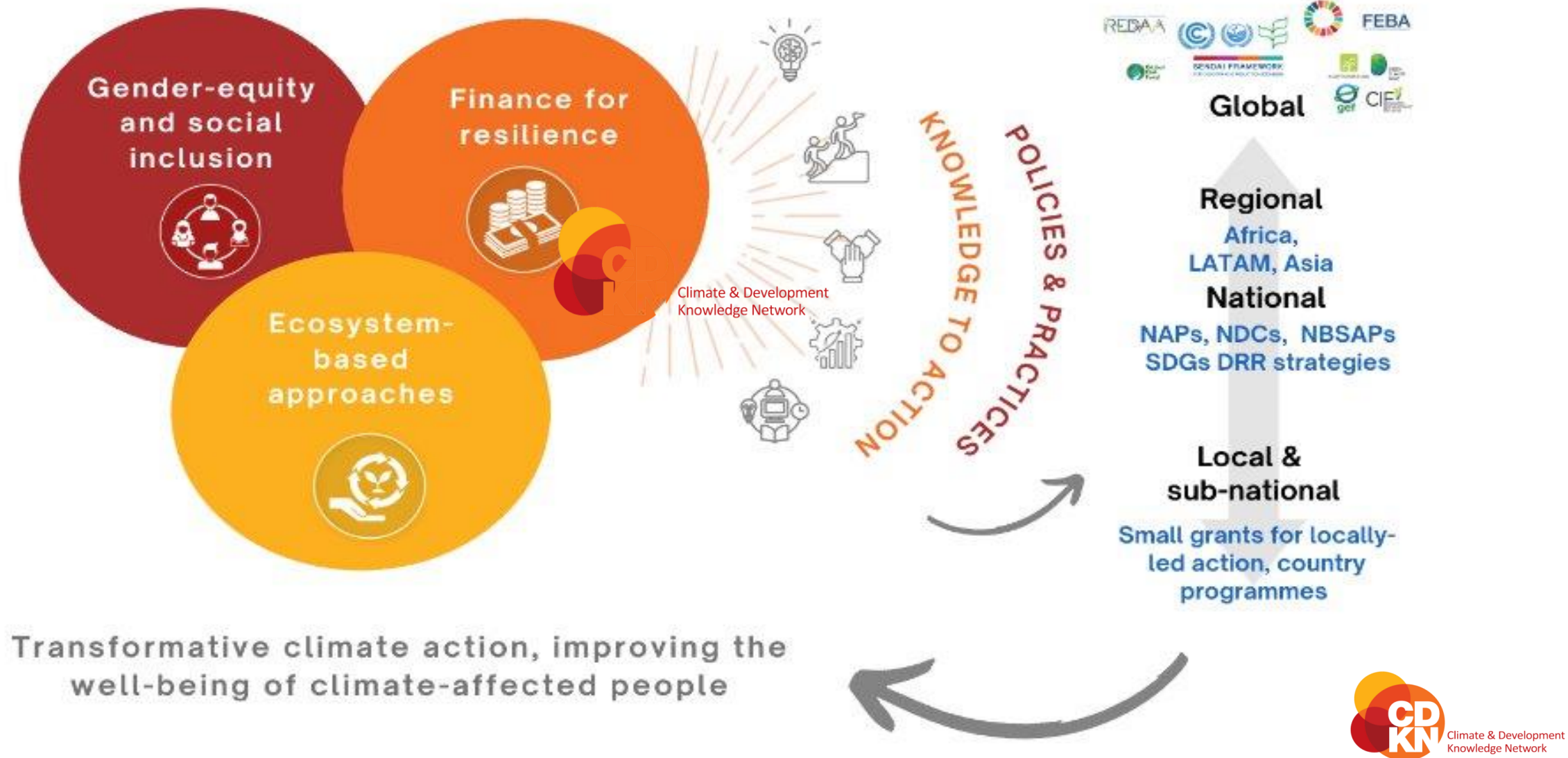
CDKN funders



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Road to influencing policy and practice



Learning Objectives

- Exchange approaches and perspectives for engaging with and responding to scepticism and resistance to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) integration
- Practice advocacy skills and share practical advocacy experiences through interactive activities, including role-play and scenario-based exercises

Facilitators



Lisa McNamara
Programme Lead



Arsema
Andargatchew
*Ethiopia
Country
Manager*



Patricia
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GESI Lead



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*Ecosystem
Based
Adaptation Lead
(Virtual)*



Lucia
Scodanibbio
*Learning Lead
(Virtual)*

Agenda



Shared priorities

Surface key challenges in GESI advocacy and build connections



Forum theatre

Enhance confidence to navigate resistance and influence GESI considerations effectively



Advocacy scenarios

Apply learning to relevant contextual challenges



Action commitments

Concrete actions to take forward to advance GESI integration in policy and practice



Ground Rules





CartoonCollections.com

Be present



Use
everything

I just don't know what we can do about climate change.

©endra Allenby / CartoonCollections.com

Credits for slide: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre





Let go

"I believe that the most important single thing, beyond discipline and creativity, is daring to dare."
Maya Angelou

Irene



Put down your
clever

“Oh, is that so, smart guy? Remind me where you took *your* degree in African Studies.”

Liam Francis Walsh / CartoonCollections.com



“O.K., I admit it, we’re lost, but the important thing is to remain focussed on whose fault it is.”

CartoonCollections.com

Make your
partner look
good!

Welcome to the
All hands on deck experience



Shared priorities

Virtual participants will join a Zoom break out room for 20 minutes

Microphones in the conference room will remain muted during this time



20'



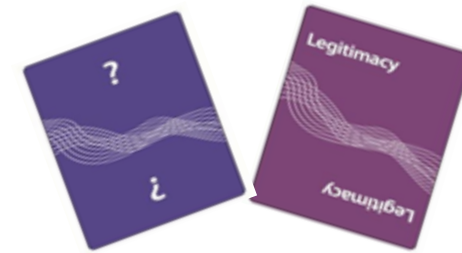
Make sure you have three cards in your hands.

With the following question in mind, feel free to swap any of your cards with someone else:

What key challenges do you face when advocating for GESI in climate policy and practice?



3'



Pair up with someone you don't know. ^{6'}

Taking 2' each, explain to one another why you have selected your three cards.

Still with the question in mind, together, decide which four cards to eliminate so that, as a pair, you are left with two cards. (2')

What key challenges do you face when advocating for GESI in climate policy and practice?



6'

As a pair, now join with another pair from around the room.

Still keeping in mind the guiding question, explain your card choices to each other and together select only one of your four cards.

Write down your issue on a cardboard, explaining why you chose it and decide on who will feed back to plenary (1' each).

What are the key challenges you face when advocating for GESI in climate policy and practice?

****Virtual participants to share in the chat****





Forum Theatre: *The Adaptation Paradox*

Scene set-up

- **Forum theatre:** interactive drama technique based on Augusto Boal's "Theatre of the Oppressed" (1971).
- **Scenario:**
 - Final planning meeting for a 5-year national climate change adaptation initiative in Republic of Obra
 - NGCCFP presents a case for integration of GESI in initiative's design & budget, meets resistance
- **Structure**
 - First performance (12')
 - Replay with audience intervention: Spect-actor replace protagonist, test alternative strategies/approaches at various points
 - Virtual participants follow online and share their views and comments in the chat
 - Debrief: reflection & actionable insights.



The cast

Ms. Sally Bintu

NGCCFP, Ministry of Gender

Archetype: The Protagonist

Dr. Julian Hayes

**Director of Budget and
Planning, Ministry of Finance**

Archetype:
Efficiency Sceptic

**Mr. Fabian
Augustin**

**Chief Technical Advisor,
National Climate Change
Secretariat**

Archetype:
Effectiveness Sceptic

**Hon. Indrani
Ganesh**

**Chair, Parliamentary
Environment Committee**

Archetype:
Sovereignty Sceptic

Mr. Vasco Valles

**National Farmers'
Association**

Archetype:
Evidence Sceptic

The Joker

Forum Theatre Facilitator

Archetype:
Facilitator



The rules

- 1) You can replace Sally or any other character, but most interventions will focus on Sally
- 2) You cannot use magic solutions (*e.g the president agrees with me on this...*)
- 3) No fixed solution | No wrong interventions (*safe space*)
- 4) Other characters stay true to their motivations. No sudden change of mind or acceptance without good reason
- 5) I'm the Joker, I will guide the process, ask questions, and make sure we learn from the intervention.
- 6) Virtual participants may signal intention to contribute by raising their hand in the chat or by sharing in writing
- 7) To intervene, shout "STOP" to be invited to replace the actor or protagonist

Debrief

- How was it? How did you identify with, or relate to, the sceptics in your own context?
- Consider each sceptic: What are they truly worried about?
- Which approaches seemed most effective? *What worked well and why?*
- Which approaches did not work well? Why? What do we learn from that?

- Spect-actors: *How did the experience feel? What surprised you?*
- Actors: *How did you respond to the spect-actor approaches?*



Advocacy scenarios: Group work

Activity

- In regional groups (*Africa (2), Asia-Pacific, LAC, WEORG*), identify a context-specific advocacy scenario that presents a challenge in your work as NGCCFP.
- Using the provided template, co-create a practical strategy to overcome resistance in your context.
- Virtual participants may work individually as guided by the facilitator

Template- e.g. LAC

Scenario title: _____

		Description	Strategy
1.	Key stakeholders	Who needs to be engaged? Who are potential allies and opponents?	
2.	Evidence and arguments	What data, case examples, and framing will be most persuasive?	
3.	Tactics	What specific actions and approaches will you use? (<i>drawing from the Forum Theatre learnings</i>)	
4.	Resources and support	What resources, partnerships and institutional mechanisms do you need?	
5.	Timelines and milestones	What are the key steps and priorities?	



Action commitments

Key actions you will take



- Reflect individually on one concrete action you will implement within the next 3 months to advance GESI integration in climate change policy and practice in your country.
- Write your commitment on a virtual sticky note and post it on the virtual action wall organised by region (*Africa, Asia-Pacific, LAC and WEOG*)



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Gracias Merci Thank you

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