

# Gender and climate change

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## Three Questions will be answered

1. What is gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation all about?
2. How can it be done?
3. What are some of the practical case studies where gender has been mainstreamed in climate change adaptation?



# Introductory discussion

1. Why gender and climate change?
2. How are men and women affected differently ?
3. What are the different ways in which men and women adapt?
4. Give relevant examples and case stories.

# Introduction

- Gender and climate change can be a vicious circle that may worsen **inequalities** and **impacts** that already exists;
- Affected are both men and women at different levels;
- The Livelihoods - economic, social and environmental wellbeing of humans;
- **How do we adapt to the forced change? How is it different with men and women?**

- It is about using **gender lens** to understand social processes relating to adaptation thereby ensuring that gendered differences are taken into account
- It is an integrated approach that is intended to facilitate **equitable participation** of both men and women, so as to adequately address the strategic needs of both genders, which may be different.

# Adaptation

- Is **Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.**
- Changes in **processes, practices and structures** to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associate.
- **What are the gender issues in the adaptation practices, processes and structures?**
- Adaptation is about the capacity to shift strategies and pursuing alternative livelihoods - **For who?**

# Adaptation .....

- **What programmes have we planned for adaptation in our organisations?**
- **How have we addressed gender issues in these programmes?**
- Planned adaptations are generally made to respond to predict impacts on ecosystem and hydrological system and to minimise human vulnerability - sectoral interventions
- It is the deliberate policy decision taken by government, public sector agencies and other organisations



# Adaptation actions

Adaptation actions undertaken by individuals, communities, businesses and organisations are;

- Changes in practices and technologies,
- Diversification of livelihood systems,
- Access to financial resources,
- Migration,
- Reconfiguring labour allocation or resource rights
- Collective action to access services, resources or markets.
- Social capital and access to skills and knowledge
- Autonomous adaptation takes place at the community and household levels

# Gender & Adaptation

- Adaptation efforts should address the gender specific impacts of climate change in the areas of;
  - Energy, Water, Food Security and Agriculture and Fisheries,
  - Biodiversity and Eco-system Services, Health, Industry, Human Settlements,
  - Disaster management and Conflict and Security.
  - Take into account **women's specific priorities** and **needs** and to make full use of their traditional knowledge and practices

- Adaptation strategies need to be made in participatory manner. **Make considerations to:**
  - Access, control and distribution of benefits;
  - Viability of communal and natural resources;
  - Levels of vulnerability, resilience and autonomy of men and women when confronted with different threats;
  - Importance of local knowledge for social and economic development;
  - Present subsistence and adaptation gender strategies; and
  - Disaster risk reduction (DDR) management to take action on causes and lessen impacts.

# Seven Principles for gender integration in CC adaptation

1. Think big: Use gender equality and equity principles
2. Know the facts: gender analysis is not an option is a must
3. Work with women and men in base organizations
4. Work with and build the capacities of existing women's and men groups.

5. Resist stereotypes: base all initiatives on knowledge
6. Use a human rights approach: democratic and participatory initiatives
7. Respect and build women's and men's capacities – thus avoid overburdening one group.

# How can gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation be done?

- By taking a gender approach
- The Gender Approach is a working tool that should be integrated in the entire policy planning and implementation process, including:
  - Gender Analysis
  - Disaggregating all data by gender.
  - Gender responsive indicators to measure results, benefits and impact.
  - Building capacity and strengthening sustainable development strategies and institutional frameworks.
  - Documenting and dissemination best practices to continually promote learning and innovation.

# **Case study - Bringing the men on board - Morocco**

- Gender mainstreaming is about men and women, it is therefore important to gain the support of both men and women.
- Do not alienate the men.

# Bringing men on board..Morocco

- When a group of rural women started the association El Amal (hope) in Guenfouda (in Eastern Morocco), they had a difficult time finding support from the men holding the power in the community. Year after year, project after project, they proved their professionalism, always respecting the local rules of informing the authorities, and working not only towards their own well-being but bringing a highly valuable contribution to the community as a whole.



# Bringing men on Board... Morocco

- At first, the mayor of the village was very skeptical, but is now one of their supporters, facilitating their work whenever possible by making work spaces available, driving them to meetings outside of the village, promoting their work in the region, and helping them to raise funds. Support from the community leader facilitates further support from other men, including husbands. Building men's confidence, in a culturally appropriate manner (slowly, through actions and results) was an achievement for these women and helps guarantee sustainable inclusion and women's empowerment.

**THANK YOU**