



Ensuring Gender-Responsive Climate Change AdaptationLearning from the Canada-UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility





This is why *gender* in the context of climate change adaptation is not only about vulnerabilities. Typically, we dwell on the fact that women are more vulnerable to climate impacts than men.

This is often true, given the role women play in food and water provisioning, both severely affected by climate change, and in domestic duties, which face further pressure when men are forced to migrate from the home to find sustainable work. Women are also typically limited in their access to knowledge and resources, which are essential in coping or adapting to changing conditions, and in their decision-making power.

However, gender-responsive adaptation is about more than addressing vulnerability; it is about strengthening gender equality and empowerment. Given the role women play in society, they have unique knowledge, understanding and needs that can strengthen climate change adaptation action. Providing women and men the same opportunities to make decisions, inform adaptation processes, and engage in implementation, will inevitably strengthen adaptation.

Gender-responsive adaptation, therefore, is better adaptation.

This means ensuring: that the underlying gender dynamics of the society are understood and considered in the design of all projects; that women are specifically targeted for capacity development and empowerment during implementation; and that success and impact is measured based on results achieved for both men and women.

The Canada-UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility (CCAF) is one of UNDP's flagship adaptation projects in the area of gender. All six countries engaged in national adaptation projects under the CCAF, including Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Haiti, Mali, Niger and Sudan, make a concerted and explicit effort to take a gender-responsive approach to all adaptation activities. This is complemented by the Facility's global component, which provides technical support, encourages knowledge exchange, and undertakes in-depth analysis of the experiences these countries have had in gender-responsive approaches.

This publication is the result of the efforts taken by this CCAF global component. It aims to provide concrete examples and experiences from all six CCAF countries on the specific inputs, resources and partnerships needed to design and implement gender-responsive approaches. It hopes to develop a better understanding of how gender-responsive approaches can be cost-effective and lead to greater adaptation impact. I hope the content and evidence provided in this publication will inform and inspire future adaptation, to ensure that gender is not an add-on component, but remains an intrinsic and essential basis of all adaptation initiatives.

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Women farmers in Mali; Photo: Imen Meliane



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Carine Pionetti, author, and CCAF project team.





ANAS	National Agency for Water and Sanitation (Cabo Verde)
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Development (Niger)

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization

FWUC Farmer Water-User Committee (Cambodia)

GCF Green Climate Fund

GEF Global Environment Facility

GGCA Global Gender and Climate Alliance

ICIEG Cabo Verdean Institute for Equality and Gender Equity

ICRW International Center for Research on Women

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

INDC Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature

LDCF Least Developed Countries Fund

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries

MDG Millennium Development Goals

MOWA Ministry of Women's Affairs (Cambodia)

MWRM Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

NAP National Adaptation Plans

NAPA National Adaptation Programmes of Action

PDA Provincial Department of Agriculture (Cambodia)

PDWRM Provincial Department of Water Resources and

Meteorology (Cambodia)

PSU Project Supporting Unit

RGA Rapid Gender Assessment

SDG Sustainable Development Goals

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

VRA Vulnerability Risk Assessment

WFP World Food Programme

WUG Water-User Group (Cambodia)

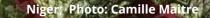




EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last two decades gender has been increasingly integrated into the design and implementation of genderresponsive adaptation initiatives at the project level. This experience has demonstrated that gender equality is a condition for successful adaptation to climate change. Yet gender-responsive adaptation remains the exception rather than the norm, and most actors still struggle with the question of how these approaches can be successfully designed, implemented and scaled up.

By shifting the focus from vulnerability to empowerment, adaptation responses have the potential to transform existing gender power imbalances and enhance both women's and men's adaptive capacities, while simultaneously strengthening gender equality and women's rights.





– UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility (CCAF). In all six countries, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Haiti, Mali, Niger and Sudan, national projects aim to strengthen climate resilience, particularly in the areas of food security and water management. They also specifically demonstrate gender-responsive adaptation strategies, providing insights into

the types of resources and partnerships needed at local

and national levels for success.

A conceptual framework for understanding adaptation strategies in relation to the goals of gender equality and justice provides a frame to analyse and extract the insights emerging from the six CCAF countries. Specifically, six critical areas form the base of this framework and provide entry points for this research. These include: 1) gendered approaches to food security; 2) water access and governance; 3) time poverty and unpaid care work; 4) control over resources and revenues; 5) participation, decision-making and leadership; and 6) targeting of gender

This research study demonstrates gender-responsive adaptation strategies, providing insights into the types of resources and partnerships needed at local and national levels for success.

See here for an overview of gender profile

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A significant implication of climate change and the resulting decline in agricultural production and food security in many parts of the world is that women are playing an increasingly important role in provisioning food for the family, especially during periods of food shortage. This is mostly due to the absence of men who migrate seasonally or permanently in search of more reliable incomes. Across all six CCAF countries, contextspecific approaches were designed to increase food production and incomes focusing on women as food producers. In Cambodia, the project supported women in developing home gardens as a source of enhanced nutrition and increased incomes which they can control. In Niger and Mali, where individual women face barriers in accessing land, a collective model of vegetable plots for groups of women and men was implemented which helped increase food production, generate new sources of income, and reinforce women's solidarity networks, critical to resource-poor families. Projects have also been successful in supporting women to generate income by diversifying livelihoods. In several countries, efforts have been made to transform social norms in food production. In Mali for example, women's associations are earning enough profit from selling their crops to acquire land collectively, over which they typically do not have rights thus creating opportunities for more gender-equitable land tenure in CCAF localities.

Food and Nutritional Security

