



# Ensuring gender equity in climate change financing





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## **Ensuring gender equity in climate change financing**



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# Foreword

Climate change presents one of the largest threats to worldwide efforts to reduce poverty and vulnerability. If left unchecked, it risks reversing progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and threatens long-term development prospects.

The level of resources required to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change is extraordinary. Although estimates of the costs vary widely, they are all significant—by 2030, costs are expected to range from \$249 billion to \$1,371 billion **annually**.

Planned carefully, climate change investments can promote development while achieving adaptation and mitigation objectives. This means driving low-carbon development and promoting economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty and accelerates progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. This cannot happen, however, without concerted actions to ensure that climate finance responds equitably to the needs of women and men within and across countries.

Administered wisely, new sources of climate funding can help transform traditional gender roles and reduce inequalities. However, failing to incorporate women and men's diverse needs and perspectives into climate change responses will further disadvantage women and decrease policies' efficiency and effectiveness.

In November 2008, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America, sponsored the first-ever workshop on gender and climate change finance. More than 60 experts from governments, civil society, United Nations organizations and the private sector, representing all regions of the world, discussed the linkages between climate change finance and gender equality. The workshop identified areas requiring further research, developed policy guidelines and recommendations, and planned several follow-up activities. The outcomes of the workshop and its recommendations form the basis of this publication.

Following a series of UNDP/GGCA-produced briefs that explored the gender dimensions of individual climate finance mechanisms, this report provides a broader overview of the climate change financing regime and highlights areas of opportunity and risk. While not all-encompassing, this report examines the realm of climate finance by focusing on a select set of climate change funds.

Public funds represent an important but small portion of climate change finance compared to the private sector. However, the nature of public funds makes them more amenable to incorporating gender considerations into their frameworks. In doing so, the examples they provide can serve as a much-needed model for integrating development objectives and gender equality principles into future private investments and fund development.

With this caveat in mind, this analysis provides a ground-breaking look into the gender dimensions of the emerging climate finance architecture and highlights opportunities for more gender-responsive investments in national climate and development strategies. We hope that policy makers and practitioners find the research and analysis presented here useful in their efforts to raise the profile of gender equality and women's empowerment principles within the climate change finance dialogue.



Winnie Byanyima  
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