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# Gender-responsive climate finance

What does truly transformational finance look like from the perspectives of women, girls and marginalised communities?

Concept note



## The issue

Women, girls and marginalised communities are structurally vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The factors that shape this vulnerability are multiple, complex and intersectional. Interconnected structural drivers of inequality such as gender, ethnicity, age, disability and wealth combine to shape people's lived experiences of climate vulnerability, from where they live and their exposure to climate risks and hazards, to the actions they take to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Understanding and addressing the structural drivers of inequality can transform both development and climate outcomes for affected communities. If these factors are ignored, the environmental crisis will worsen existing gender-based inequities, keeping women girls impoverished and marginalised.

While some gender policies have been integrated into key multilateral climate finance mechanisms, truly intersectional approaches merely receive lip service. The robust, disaggregated data on women that is needed to inform policy and financing, and assess their impact, is often missing. Our ability to track how well climate investments are addressing structural drivers, at both a national and international level, remains woefully limited. Until we know how much financing there is, how it is delivered and whether it responds to the intersectional needs of the most marginalised, we lack the evidence to support calls for more accountable, coherent and transformative climate finance.

What do we need to respond to these challenges?

1. **We need more gender-responsive financing.** Only 2.4% of all climate-related ODA has gender equality as its principal objective.<sup>1</sup> Climate finance must integrate gender responsiveness as a core component.
2. **We need to develop disaggregated, consistent and robust climate financing reporting methodologies** in partnership with implementing organizations and donors.
3. **We must ensure the voices of those who are marginalised are included in defining what counts as gender responsive climate finance.** The meaningful participation of women and girls in climate action and related decision-making processes is critical. Ensuring that lived experiences inform the design of indicators, measurements and reporting for how gender responsive climate finance is defined, delivered and evaluated. Moving us from a top-down approach to one rooted in a values-based, intersectional methodology.

## Our Offer

DI will develop solutions to strengthen the accountability and coherence of the data that informs gender- responsive climate finance decision-making. Working with international and national partners we will provide the data and evidence critical to supporting calls for more gender-responsive climate finance, and work to bring the perspectives of women and girls to how gender- responsive climate financing is defined, allocated and evaluated.

DI will work in partnership to deliver three workstreams:

### **1. Improving the accountability and transparency through co-creation of a framework that supports consistent and coherent reporting and gives better visibility of gender responsive climate financing flows. We will:**

- Use the latest available data to establish the best possible picture of the climate-financing landscape, including complementary development, humanitarian and gender financing flows.
- Track gender-responsive climate finance alongside other gender finance, going beyond the gender markers where possible, and drawing on data across sectors to build an overview of global levels of gender responsive climate financing.
- Drawing on our experience of ongoing finance accountability work, we will apply machine learning to assess how well donors are reporting gender-related ODA. These resources will inspect the modalities, channels and recipients chosen by donors, as well as the implications of those decisions, and forward-looking projections to assess the likelihood of commitments being met.
- Use data and evidence developed in partnership with organisations and marginalised communities, (under Workstream 2), to develop a framework and index that gives an independent and transparent assessment of the quality of reporting by funding providers.
- Work with donors to support their approaches in assessment of climate finance's gender responsiveness, moving to an approach that is grounded in the perspectives of women and girls.
- Make this mechanism an open access online tool, capturing and displaying information for public use. Where possible we will build solutions that draw more timely data from sources such as IATI.

### **2. Increasing understanding of what gender-responsive finance is, what is available and how it can be delivered to better align with intersectional needs (as defined by women, girls and marginalised communities in the in most climate-vulnerable communities).**

Building on our work examining the global financing landscape, we will partner with Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) and Women-led Organisations (in

two national contexts) to pilot, test, and refine an intersectional definition of need. We will then develop a methodology for tracking gender-responsive climate finance and an index which will measure the extent to which financing aligns with the proposed definition of need.

Working with governments and country partners, our research will focus on developing answers and recommendations to the following questions:

- What proportion of climate-related external financing and domestic resources supports gender equality?
- What are the main instruments/mechanisms used to channel climate finance (external resources)? How do these instruments support gender equality?
- What are the main activities funded by gender-responsive climate finance?
- What has or has not worked well in promoting gender-responsive climate finance? (including challenges, best practice and lessons learnt).

Building on this analysis, we will conduct a qualitative review of how WROs participate in climate action. We will assess the extent to which the perspectives of women and girls are integrated in decisions around financing gender-responsive climate action to inform policy and practice at national levels. The broad research questions will include:

- What are the roles of WROs in the implementation of locally led gender-responsive climate action?
- What are their experiences of accessing gender-responsive climate finance?
- How are the experiences of women and girls integrated in the decision-making processes at national and subnational levels?
- What is the role of WROs in strengthening climate data, including citizen-generated data, to inform gender responsive climate action and finance?

Using this research to inform our knowledge of the climate-financing data ecosystem, we will apply a values-based, feminist approach to understanding the needs of women, girls and marginalised communities. Developing clear recommendations on what gender-responsive climate finance needs to look like, if it is to be transformational. We will:

- Use a data landscaping approach to better understand the availability of country- and community-level data on women and climate.
- Apply our Leave No One Behind methodologies to support organisations collecting data on the lived experience of women from an intersectional perspective.

- Analyse data, aggregating official and citizen-generated data, to map the needs of women and girls. From this, generating recommendations on what the key indicators of quality climate financing would look like for them, encompassing their visions of transformational change.
- Develop pilot proxy indicators for measuring quality finance.
- Engage with donors and national governments on these findings, and on how they could be applied to financial decision making and reporting.
- Test the indicator framework and its application to donor reporting on gender-responsive climate financing.

**3. Increase access to, and use of, data driven insights that supports organisations working with women, girls and marginalised communities to advocate for more, and better, climate finance that puts intersectional gender needs at core of its delivery.**

Under this workstream, DI will:

- Convene diverse fora that connect development actors, partners and wider networks with a role in gender-responsive financing and programme implementation.
- Deliver data, analysis and insights in accessible, decision-ready and engaging formats so our partners can quickly form key communication and influencing messages for their engagement activities.
- We will co-create shadow reports, highlighting national level analysis that maps the climate gender data ecosystem and climate finance needs of women, girls and marginalised communities.
- Ensure that partners have additional climate data and evidence to bolster internal knowledge, inform advocacy messaging and support influencing.
- Work with partners to co-create an influencing strategy, which starts with a focus on 2024's quantifiable goal process. A real opportunity to ensure gender responsiveness is at the core of climate financing.
- We will work with international partners, including institutional and multilateral donors such as the UN, sharing country-level and contextual analysis, definitions and recommended principles, and encouraging them to adopt recommended approaches.

Through DI's delivery of the programme objectives, our partners will have increased skills and expertise in data and the evidence not only to effectively advocate and influence policy and processes, but also to link national priorities to the regional and global levels to support better and more inclusive governance.

**Partners are central to this effort.** We will build new strategic partnerships at the global, regional, and national level, building on our track record of working as a trusted partner to international institutions, national governments and local CSOs alike. This effort will mean collaborating upstream with governments and financing institutions and downstream with civil society actors and think tanks, utilising our unique offer as a data expert and a multi-stakeholder broker to co-

create and develop knowledge products, as well as achieve buy in, coherence and encourage better quality data and reporting of climate finance.

Development Initiatives has also been recently appointed to the advisory board of Gender Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) – a multi-stakeholder alliance for strengthening and informing feminist climate action.

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## More from DI

Read our [resources](#) and [blogs](#) about climate finance.

## Photo

[Photo: UN Women/Joe Saade](#)

*In the Katfoura village on the Tristao Islands in Guinea, the civil society organisation Partenariat Recherches Environnement Medias (PREM) is providing rural women with new opportunities to generate income and improve community life.*

*Through a grant from UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, PREM has helped rural women form several cooperatives and taught its members how to plant a vitamin-rich tree called Moringa and how to clean, dry and sell its leaves. Used as medicine or a dietary supplement by societies around the world, Moringa also supports biodiversity and prevents soil erosion.*

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Development Initiatives (DI) applies the power of data and evidence to build sustainable solutions.

Our mission is to work closely with partners to ensure data-driven evidence and analysis are used effectively in policy and practice to end poverty, reduce inequality, and increase resilience.

While data alone cannot bring about a better world, it is a vital part of achieving it. Data has the power to unlock insight, shine a light on progress and empower people to increase accountability.

To find out more about our work visit:

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