



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM

Ethiopia:
Nuances of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan

By ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum

Acknowledgements

The ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum (AEF) commissioned PATH Development Consulting and Research of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to study Ethiopia's experiences with implementing the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Information, inputs, and documents for the resulting *Ethiopia: Nuances of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan* were generously provided by government stakeholders and civil society organisations (CSOs), some of whom are members of the AEF. These were essential to the successful completion of this report.

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Please note that annexes are available on request from AEF. These are the inception report, data collection tools, list of documents and references, and the consultation workshop presentation.

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Executive Summary

The main goal of this case study, *Ethiopia: Nuances of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan*, is to better understand how the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) can be implemented, how it fits into broader climate policies including finance priorities, and how it can be used at the national level in Ethiopia to ensure that climate funding contributes to both climate and gender justice. The research had a particular focus on the work of the ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum (AEF) and its members.

The study reviewed existing institutional arrangements and documents relevant to climate justice and gender justice policies, programmes, and strategies; interviewed key stakeholders to identify synergies and complementarities and how they fit into broader discussions around the UNFCCC GAP both nationally and globally; and, assessed AEF member and partner organisations' capacity to implement gender and climate justice.

The methodology included a qualitative analysis of data captured from national and international research, policies, partner organisation policies, programmes, strategies, and other documents relevant to gender and climate justice. An analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) and a capacity assessment workshop was held with AEF members. In addition, stakeholders from government agencies and civil society were involved in this study.

Ethiopia has progressive laws, policies, programmes and strategies that integrate gender equality provisions. It also has robust climate change policy frameworks. However, there are difficulties

implementing gender responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation due to limited knowledge capacity among implementers, the absence of gender budgeting, poor coordination and lack of coherence in structural functionalities. There are inadequate synergies between gender and climate change programmes despite the government's efforts to enhance interlinkages.

Despite these challenges, there is a definite will within government and among non-state actors to enhance the gender responsive climate change response. Evidence from this study illustrates how these actors try to integrate gender into climate programming, indicates the integral gaps to be filled, unpacks the UNFCCC GAP within a national context, and offers considerations for effective and meaningful integration.

This study sets the stage for a unique moment in the gender and climate discourse in Ethiopia. Its findings point practitioners such as those in the AEF, technical staff in government and policy makers to the fact that limited understanding of existing national, regional and global gender and climate strategies and how they coalesce determines the level of integration of gender into climate change policy and programming. While some AEF members have integrated gender and climate justice considerations into some of their programme planning and strategies, this needs buttressing if real transformation is to be delivered in advocacy and programme work.

AEF member organisations' understanding of gender mainstreaming in climate programmes is limited to adding a "women's component" to existing planned activities, without addressing the gender power differences in climate change adaptation and mitigation programming. Government sector offices and AEF member organisations' understanding of the UNFCCC GAP is limited. Despite this, AEF gender and climate programmes have made notable contributions to the GAP priority area for gender responsive climate change action.

Government and AEF members have made efforts to mainstream gender in climate programming. The government has accomplished this through the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), with support from CSOs on the development of gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, and gender action plans. However, both the government and AEF members lack sector and project specific gender analysis, mainstreaming strategies and action plans that would guarantee effective nexus building. Efforts to maximise the implementation of gender action plans have been limited.

There is a clear opportunity to centralise UNFCCC GAP within gender and climate justice work in Ethiopia both among the AEF member organisations and at relevant government levels. The AEF has an opportunity to contribute to sustainable development by supporting the Ethiopian government's translation and contextualisation of the UNFCCC GAP. Both parties should work together on implementation.

It is hoped that the learning from this study will inform how gender is mainstreamed and effectively considered in climate change policy and programming work at both regional and global levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

for Ethiopia's government and policymakers

1. Knowledge of national policies, strategies, programmes, and actions as well as global frameworks on gender and climate

Raise awareness of sector offices on national and international frameworks on gender and climate justice programmes.

Build implementation capacity, coordination and gender budgeting for proper implementation of gender responsive climate programme action plans.

2. Mainstreaming of gender in climate programming

Conduct sector-specific gender analysis and design a mainstreaming strategy, guidelines, and action plan consistent with the UNFCCC GAP for a gender responsive agricultural system transition and long-term land and ecosystem management.

Develop expert capacity and mechanisms to translate policy commitments on gender and climate justice into action.

3. Synergy between gender responsive climate change actions

Strengthen communities of practice on gender responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation for more synergy and complementarity.

4. Awareness and understanding of the UNFCCC GAP approach and how to put it into practice

Develop a UNFCCC GAP handbook that contextualises and translates the UNFCCC GAP to serve as a guide for implementing gender-responsive climate change programmes at the grassroots level.

5. Gender and the Ethiopian NDCs

Raise awareness about the national priorities on gender and climate change adaptation and mitigation actions as well as about the NDC and NAP.

Communicate the NDC and encourage the contribution of CSOs to gender responsive climate change measures.

6. Gender responsive climate mitigation and adaptation strategies and advocacy

Engage civil society organisations, the private sector, academic institutions, research institutes, and individuals in a concerted effort to implement the UNFCCC GAP, with a focus on gender responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Encourage civil society organisations, local women's rights organisations, and youth organisations to participate in UNFCCC negotiations.

7. Maximise impact and development cooperation

Collaborate with CSOs, academic institutions, research institutions and the private sector to coordinate efforts on gender responsive action on climate change.

8. Funding

The Ethiopian government should investigate the experiences of other countries in collaborating on climate finance with CSOs.

Develop a model for collaboration with Ethiopia CSOs on climate finance to ensure that CSOs have access to government climate finance.

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