



Photo by: Cecilia Castro, INMUJERES Mexico

3

Gender sensitive tools for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

These case studies point to practical tools such as toolkits, handbooks, and innovative techniques for implementing gender equality and mainstreaming gender perspectives in planning and policies.

Mali

inter
cooperation

Highlighting local coping strategies for drought

The CRiSTAL Tool: Community based risk screening tool - adaptation and livelihoods

Intercooperation, Switzerland (In partnership with IISD, IUCN, SEI and SDC)



Abstract

The ‘Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods’ or CRiSTAL is a decision support tool. Drawing on the environmental impact assessment model and the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, CRiSTAL aims to provide a logical, user-friendly process to help users better understand the links between climate-related risks, people’s livelihoods, and project activities. Between 2004 and 2006 an interdisciplinary team conducted a series of field tests on completed or ongoing natural resource management projects in Bangladesh, Mali, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Sri Lanka. Today, many projects are using CRiSTAL as a tool for understanding local vulnerability and to check ongoing coping strategies. Moreover CRiSTAL is being used for adjusting concrete programs and projects in order to increase livelihood resilience. In the Malian Sahel, the CRiSTAL has shown that rural communities have developed coping strategies for extreme climate events such as droughts. The process has also identified an increase in the disaster risk of heavy rainfall, in line with climate change predictions, for which no traditional coping strategies have yet been developed. CRiSTAL was developed by Intercooperation, IISD, IUCN and SEI with funds provided by SDC.

How the initiative links Gender, DRR and Climate Change

The application of CRiSTAL* allows a detailed analysis of hazards and their impact on livelihoods at the local level, including hazards that are predicted to intensify as a result of climate change. In Mali, a particular threat is the increase in hydrometeorological extremes. The CRiSTAL approach also provides a gender specific vulnerability analysis for different parts of the population, highlighting specific coping strategies of women, and resulting in clear pointers for how gender specific measures will need to be incorporated into projects.

* The CRiSTAL Tool can be downloaded from the website: www.iisd.org/security/es/resilience/climate_phase2.asp

The Initiative

The analysis in Mali with CRiSTAL, a project planning and management tool, is part of an overall approach by Intercooperation (the Swiss Foundation for International Development and Cooperation) to strengthen local capacity in climate change and disaster risk reduction work. The tool produces answers about the current climate risks, their impacts at the local level and the current coping strategies of the community. By listing the different hazards occurring in the region and their impact on livelihood resources, the participants learn about climate change and disaster risk reduction's link to their everyday lives. This approach also provides space for a gender specific analysis on the differences in vulnerability in the rural population.

The analysis was conducted within the 'Programme d'appui aux organisations paysannes pour la valorisation des ressources naturelles', or the so called Jèkasy Programme in Mali. The programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and is implemented by Intercooperation. Its aim is to contribute to sustainable development and diversification of the natural resources in the region of Ségou and Sikasso; some complementary activities in local economic development are cofinanced by Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) and the Canton of Vaud.

The criteria for selecting the region were:

- Household livelihood supported by women's income, through use of non-timber forest products
- Social conflicts over access and use of natural resources among pastoralists, farmers and forest gatherers
- Land degradation and desertification, with pressure on fertile land

In Mali, the analysis was conducted between October and December 2007 as a pilot activity in the region, with possible future activities being planned. CRiSTAL was applied three times in the region of Ségou, in the community of San, in the East of Mali as well as once in the region of Sikasso.

The tool was applied so project planners can better understand vulnerabilities of local livelihoods to climate hazards, especially hydrometeorological extremes. It also brings to light the strategies people use to cope with the increasing stresses. It is also of particular use for the communities themselves, who deepen their understanding of the impact of climate change, specifically how it affects and will affect their daily activities and their production strategies.

CRiSTAL provides a space for grassroots stakeholders to be heard. Moreover, it produces a simple but systematic climate and livelihood analysis so participants can get a clearer idea about the current climate change situation and possible threats to their livelihoods. Simultaneously, the analysis makes stakeholders at the national, regional and local level aware about climate change issues.

Women did not have their own workshops during the CRiSTAL process, but particular attention was paid to women's participation, and a female programme officer in charge of the region's work was skilled in addressing sensitive issues. The CRiSTAL analysis highlighted the clear gender specific distinction of livelihood activities, with women having a key role in certain agricultural activities, e.g. cooking, collection of dry firewood, the collection of shea nuts, and the extraction of shea butter.

However, the management of the agricultural land as well as the various activities related to agroforestry parks, are run entirely by men leading the community. Although from a legal perspective all natural resources belong to the State, from a local traditional perspective the owners are clearly defined within a community and

belong to a man. Women in the community generally do not own land and have hardly any rights regarding the management of natural resources, despite often working in the fields. The power of the male landowners over the natural resources means that the poorest groups, in particular women, are doubly excluded – from both the land and its resources – and are thus more vulnerable.

The communities have always struggled against the region's semi-arid conditions. Climate hazards such as droughts, lack of rainfall during the rainy season, and irregular rainfall are a part of daily life. According to the participants, since the severe droughts in the 1970s, the Malian government stated that such events should not be considered an external threat, but need to be integrated into daily life and production strategies.

The Good Practice

The CRiSTAL analysis has shown that rural communities have developed coping strategies to cope with climate hazards and to a certain extent with extreme events such as droughts. CRiSTAL was able to highlight women's coping strategies.

- Due to food insecurity in the region, generally caused by drought, women in Mali have always stored their harvest separately from the family. Although most of the women do not own land or trees, certain products are exclusively harvested and collected by women.

For example, the collection of shea nuts as well as the extraction of shea butter is exclusively a women's activity. These products are then used during difficult periods when the harvest made at household level is insufficient.

- The selling of fire wood, or chickens and goats, are other coping strategies that women use to get through difficult periods.
- Although this remains an exception, it has nonetheless become more common that women in peri-urban areas try to form associations to gain access to land by renting or purchasing plots. Women will even buy land from their husbands for agricultural production, and try to get microloans from banks or micro-finance organizations.



- The elaboration and the implementation of local conventions can also facilitate the rights and the access of women to natural resources so that they can manage land plots.

However, the CRiSTAL participatory process of listing 30 years of hazards showed: (a) a more frequent occurrence and an increase in the intensity of climate hazards and (b) new phenomena such as ‘vent violent’ (strong winds) from the Sahara and more heavy rainfall causing floods. Floods from September 2007 in several regions of Mali illustrate the local vulnerability to a new phenomenon - no traditional coping strategies for heavy rainfall and floods exist. Besides landslides, severe consequences have been the losses of many crops as well as a great amount of the annual harvest.

Lesson(s) Learned

- Better collaboration between men and women is needed to deal with climate risks. Sharing the risks of production between all members of the household is a strategy for dealing with climate insecurity.
- The impact of climate change will worsen the exclusion of women involved in agriculture, due to their lack of fertile land. Particular support has to be given to women so that they have not only access to natural resources, but that they also can make decisions on the management of trees, for example multipurpose tree species.
- Gender inequity has a negative impact on the management of the land and the agroforestry parks. The clarification of tenure and propriety rights on the local, but also on the national level will be essential.
- Local communities have some coping strategies; however, they will not prove sufficient should current conditions continue. Additional support by the government and NGOs is needed to protect rural communities.
- As the recent floods have shown, rural communities are vulnerable to new climate hazards. It is therefore increasingly important that disaster risk reduction be embedded at the national, regional and local level.
- In Mali, two different Ministries are responsible for climate change and disaster risk reduction. Supra-ministerial collaboration and exchange is necessary for guaranteeing coordinated work in areas of overlap. Although gender specific analyses regarding disaster risk reduction and climate change are essential, the National Adaptation Programme for Action (PANA) and the National Communication do not fully integrate these aspects into their analyses. Encouraging an exchange with the people responsible for climate change and disaster risk reduction on the national level is required.

Challenges

- The current patriarchal system favours the older generation. Not only women, but also young men have limited rights and opportunities, and require particular support to access agricultural and forestry production.
- A particular challenge will be to prepare the farmers to cope with floods and droughts at the same time. The establishment of preventive measures, and technological investment into adaptive seeds that can cope with both extremes, could be key solutions.
- For women to sustain their independent livelihoods, the wider family must have a stable source of income. When income suffers at a family level, through for example a bad harvest, falling revenue, the cost of supporting children and other family, and so forth, it is the private income and the power of women that is specifically used for communal needs.

Potential for replication

The analysis in Mali is part of Intercooperation's overall approach, and many projects are currently using CRiSTAL as a tool for understanding vulnerability and for checking ongoing coping strategies. CRiSTAL is also being used for adjusting concrete programs and projects in order to increase livelihood resilience. It is highly recommended to incorporate these kinds of analyses into country programmes and projects.

For more information, please contact:

Nicole Clot

nicole.clot@intercooperation.ch

Nepal

act:onaid

Bringing voices of poor women to the climate change debate

Capturing and channeling women's adaptation experiences to policy-makers

ActionAid International (In partnership with ActionAid Nepal and IDS)



Abstract

In Nepal, poor rural women will suffer greatly from climate change, and policy and funding must take their needs into account. Although they have significant knowledge to share about adapting their agricultural practices to build resilience to weather-related hazards and reduce disaster losses, they do not participate in any decision-making on climate change policies. They also have adaptive strategies and mechanisms already in place. An action research initiative allows Nepalese women in poor and remote communities to use video as a means of communicating their climate change concerns and experience to policy-makers at local and national levels. It addresses the serious gap between climate change policy makers and women at the grassroots who are already amongst the most affected by climate change. It also empowers grassroots women to become advocates for change instead of passive objects of research. This has developed their capacity to keep their issues on the ever-evolving policy agenda.

How the initiative links Gender, DRR and Climate Change

Evidence shows that women are more affected by disasters and because of power imbalances between men and women they are likely to experience the most negative impact of climate change on their health, food security, access to water and livelihoods. For women, making sure their voices are taken into account in climate change and disaster risk reduction policies is a human rights issue. The initiative gives voice to their gendered experience of increasing weather and climate-related disasters. It also sheds light on women's capacities and their climate change adaptation activities, which include disaster risk reduction techniques to specifically combat flood, droughts and other weather-related disasters increasing with climate change. This repositions grassroots women in the climate change policy debate because they have the right to participate and are a source of knowledge for adaptation.

The Initiative

This initiative captures the experiences, opinions, needs and recommendations of poor women in isolated Nepalese communities, to feed into the climate change adaptation policy and funding process. The films are recorded by the women, who then write a storyboard that guides local NGOs when editing. Clips from the interviews are presented to stakeholders at local to national level working on the design of Nepal's National Adaptation Plan of Action.

This research developed from an initial study by ActionAid and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at Sussex University. This study examined how women are coping with and adapting to climate change, and their most urgent needs for adapting their livelihoods. It took place in the aftermath of the disaster triggered by monsoon floods in 2007 in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In Nepal, the study took place in the village development committees (VDCs) of Matehiya and Suryapatuwa in the districts Banke and Bardiya in the mid-western development region, highly vulnerable to climate change impact. VDCs are the smallest government administrative units. The villages have no electricity and no transport links, and were chosen because they are high risk areas inhabited by poor communities deprived of basic services. This is a result of factors including the civil conflict, and the population's dependence on agricultural livelihoods that have been severely affected by changes to the monsoon pattern.

The study asked women what they wanted to adapt to climate change and reduce risk of disasters that would destroy their livelihoods. Focus groups of women were asked about their existing strategies and mechanisms to cope with the increase in flooding and what they perceived as the main constraints and barriers to effectively securing their livelihoods. Teachers, local authorities, saving and credit groups and local associations involved in the management of water and forestry resources were also used as key informants and to validate the information collected in the focus groups.

The action research to allow women to convey those messages to policy-makers themselves started a few months later in the Banke and Rusawa districts.

The action research initiative's methodology had the following steps:

- Workshop to train research team, presentation of project to women and local organisations in project locations (climate change high risk areas in Nepal where ActionAid works)
- Train women and partners in the use of cameras and storyboarding to ensure local organisations do not alter messages when editing.
- Women interview each other and use cameras to document their problems and produce short films
- The last stage will be to present the videos to government officials, academics and other policy-makers.

Now communities and local partners have been successfully trained in the use of video-cameras. Evidence shows that women and local organizations 'own' the process. Since the completion of training, short videos have already been produced and edited independently of ActionAid and the process facilitator.

In this phase special attention has been put on the sustainability and mainstreaming of the project. For example, the camera being used is a low-cost and easy-to-use model that can be charged with car battery power if needed.

The initial study *We know what we need: South Asian Women speak out on Climate Change Adaptation* was authored by IDS and ActionAid. The action research to empower women to become advocates of the recommendations identified in that first study is led by an IDS postgraduate student and researcher with the support from ActionAid and partners, Bheri Excellence Environment Group, Nepal Agroforestry Foundation (NAF) and IDS.

The Good Practice

This initiative is a good practice because it gives women the space to participate and tell policy makers what they want, instead of being assumed to be vulnerable, powerless victims of climate change. It encourages a shift from researching 'about' gender issues, towards action research that can generate change led by women themselves. This offers an alternative to other research that is undertaken to influence policy. Conventional research is extractive: it does not help women to participate in the policy-focused advocacy that outside organizations are trying to use to improve the women's own lives. Organizations need to lead by example to allow communities to speak for themselves.

The initiative responds to recommendations on gender, climate change and disaster risk reduction that relate to the need for practical tools to support women to engage in debates and planning, and to sensitize decision-makers to the advantages of equal participation.



Lesson(s) Learned

Although the women had a very good understanding of the problems they face and very clear priorities for adaptation, they might not necessarily know about all the alternatives that could be available to support their livelihood adaptation. Future research projects could consider giving additional input to the focus group discussions to enrich their analysis, for example through data available on the predicted climatic changes in their region.

It might also be useful to conduct this research with both women's and men's groups to study where they are aligned and where they might conflict. It is important that climate change adaptation measures effectively improve the resilience of the community as a whole whilst promoting greater gender equality.

Impacts & Results

This initiative furthers gender equality by facilitating representation of women in the policy arena and effectively highlighting how their experience and insights can help policy-makers ensure climate change responses make a difference to the worst affected groups.

The concrete achievement at the local level is that women are more able to participate in the research project to reflect on their situations, articulate their concerns, and identify the actions that they believe will translate into a positive change in their conditions.

Evidence of this can be seen by the various short and long term adaptation techniques adopted by the women, such as the adoption of bio-engineering techniques to minimize the effects of flood, adoption of less labour intensive technologies, the initiation of multiple cropping and intercropping practices, investment in alternative irrigation methods, the introduction of early paddy of short duration, the practice of homestead rising, and the promotion of alternative energy technology like solar energy, biogas and improved cooking stoves.

The women shared their experiences of these methods and then critically discussed them to determine their effectiveness. Through the process they identified the factors that would increase their resilience, such as strengthening social practices and community safety nets to support livelihoods and reduce financial risk.

"If we do not change our attitudes and practices, it is difficult to survive in the changing conditions. We are adapting systems like the ones used by migrant hill societies. We are strengthening our social institutions to cope with flood and drought by providing support to each other, like food and shelter for our flood-affected neighbours"

- Muna Mukeri, 55, from Matchiya, Nepal in research report.

The Challenges

One of the main challenges of this initiative is to ensure that the findings of the research and the voices of these women are consistently fed into relevant policy dialogues and valued as substantive contributions to the debate. Qualitative research on grass-root perspectives is often considered mere 'anecdotal' evidence and therefore shadowed by facts and figures that are arguably considered a better representation of reality. The key to overcoming this is to build the local capacity of poor and excluded groups to engage in people-centred advocacy. This is precisely the focus of the second phase of this initiative.

Potential for Replication

The research project outlined above could be relevant and applicable in all other contexts since the process itself can be easily adapted. It can be most easily adopted and adapted by organizations working on climate change and disaster risk reduction that wish to do more work on gender and women's rights. The method could be especially relevant in regions where there is no documented research specifically targeted to ask poor and excluded women what they want in relation to climate change adaptation or disaster risk reduction. Information on the specific challenges and strategies adopted by women facing risks of a different nature or environment, such as in urban areas, would also contribute to the policy understanding of women's priorities, and empower them through the process.

For more information, please contact:

Marion Khamis

marion.khamis@actionaid.org

Tajikistan and Africa



Designing adaptation strategies for vulnerable women

Analyzing and understanding the causes of vulnerability to climate change

CARE International

(In partnership with CIDA and local NGOs: For the Earth, Nifular and Camp Khuliston)



Abstract

This initiative piloted and refined a tool for assessing vulnerability to climate change and identifying community capacity to adapt, to be used in development projects. It was carried out first in Tajikistan as a part of a climate change adaptation project, targeting vulnerable households headed by women. It has since been replicated in several African countries. The assessment tool has been used to design adaptation strategies for vulnerable women, resulting in increased food security for families in remote communities. Field testing of the assessment process in Niger and Ghana has helped raise field staff and local partner awareness of the gender dimensions of climate change vulnerability. The tool will be key to mainstreaming gender equality and diversity in CARE's Adaptation Learning Program in Africa. Gender and diversity issues will be integrated into all aspects of the program, including climate-resilient livelihoods strategies, disaster risk reduction initiatives, capacity building for local organizations, and advocacy.

How the initiative links Gender, DRR and Climate Change

The CVCA process is intended to produce climate change adaptation strategies in a way that promotes gender equality and builds resilience. The CVCA tool assesses gendered needs in climate change adaptation, including vulnerability of women to hydrometeorological hazards like floods, droughts, cyclones and changing rainfall patterns. The tool's methodology examines the relationship between climate hazards and key indicators of livelihood security, and also analyzes other factors that increase vulnerability. Field tests of the CVCA in Africa have shown that gender inequality in family responsibilities, control of household assets, and participation in community affairs can increase the vulnerability of women and their families to climate-related hazards. Evidence from Tajikistan shows that involving women in climate-resilient livelihood strategies can increase household adaptive capacity.

The Initiative

The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) is a gender-sensitive methodology for participatory learning and action to reduce people's vulnerability to climate change.

Exercises help participants identify and understand the relative vulnerability of different social groups – especially with regard to women – as a basis for designing realistic adaptation activities targeting those who need it most. The methodology also helps participants explore how structural inequalities between social groups can create barriers to effective adaptation.

The CVCA was initially designed under the Adaptation to Climate Change Project in Tajikistan (ACCT) Project, which was implemented by CARE between April 2005 and September 2007.

Building on the assessment framework designed through the ACCT Project, CARE is currently refining and field testing the CVCA methodology in West and Southern Africa. The CVCA methodology will be applied in CARE's Adaptation Learning Program (ALP) which is planned to launch in Ghana, Niger and Mozambique in Fall 2008.

In Tajikistan, CARE worked in three communities in Varzob District, north of Dushanbe. The villages were located in Ziddi, Dekhmalik and Chorbogh Jamoats.

In Africa, field tests have been conducted in two villages in Bawku East District in the Upper East Region of Ghana and in three villages in the Department of Dakoro, Maradi Region in Niger. Testing is also planned for Vilankulos District of Northern Inhambane Province, Mozambique.

The CVCA addresses gender by:

- Providing vulnerable women with a chance to develop and voice their unique concerns
- Analyzing differences in vulnerability between men and women
- Providing information on gender aspects of vulnerability to communicate to local stakeholders, including community leaders, governments, and NGOs
- Allows the design of adaptation strategies that meet women's needs and priorities
- Builds evidence of women's particular vulnerability to climate change and disasters

The key gender issues underpinning the CVCA design, are:

- The particular vulnerability of women to climate change
- Women's role in providing food and water for the family
- The knowledge of environmental change and livelihoods alternatives that women have as a result of their role in the household

- Women's limited power in household and community decision-making processes
- The potential of women to make positive changes in their households and communities which increase their adaptive capacity

Men and women benefit from the CVCA process because gender differences in vulnerability are recognized and communicated to local stakeholders. This also means that adaptation strategies can be designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable - particularly poor women. Helping women increase their adaptive capacity has lasting benefits for their families and communities.

In Tajikistan, the ACCT Project targeted vulnerable households in the three communities, particularly focusing on households headed by women. 80 households were directly targeted, with 40 per cent of

them headed by women. Project partners included three local NGOs - For the Earth, Nilufar and Camp Khuliston - who provided training and technical support for the implementation of adaptation strategies.

The project also worked closely with the three target Jamoat administrative councils, sharing information and undertaking joint initiatives, including the integration of climate vulnerability issues identified through the CVCA into annual planning processes. Funding for the implementation of this project was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The CVCA will be integral to the detailed design of the ALP, which will target a total of nine vulnerable communities in Ghana, Niger, and Mozambique, representing approximately 2,800 households and 16,000 individuals. Gender equality and diversity will be a cross-cutting theme of the program.

The Good Practice

The CVCA is a good practice because it applies a climate 'lens' to livelihoods analysis, and incorporates analysis of the underlying causes of vulnerability. The initiative also links community knowledge to scientific data on climate change, and allows analysis of differential vulnerability within communities. It focuses not only on vulnerability, but also on existing adaptive capacity, and helps communicate climate change risks to local stakeholders.

Key factors for success were:

- Field staff with strong community facilitation skills
- Availability of background data
- Engagement of local institutions (government and NGOs)

Some of the innovative elements of this initiative were that it adopted a holistic approach to analyzing climate change vulnerability, examining livelihoods, hazards, gender, and underlying causes of vulnerability, and linking community knowledge to climate science.



The CVCA can be used to:

- Design targeted adaptation programs to reduce vulnerability to climate change
- Mainstream climate change into other relevant programs (agriculture, water, livelihoods) to ensure that they are contributing to adaptive capacity
- Build evidence for advocacy by using community-level information on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable people

Lesson(s) Learned

- Training in the methodology should incorporate field-based exercises. This is essential for staff to really understand the approach.
- Facilitators need a combination of community facilitation skills and a solid understanding of climate change issues.
- The project's results should be analyzed by a multidisciplinary team.

This initiative can be improved by better integrating communication of climate change information and data to communities in the field. If resources are available, it is also helpful to subdivide the gender groups by age, livelihoods strategies and/or ethnicity to further break down axes of vulnerability.

Impacts & Results

In Tajikistan, the results of the assessment were used to design adaptation strategies that targeted vulnerable women, with positive results including increased food security for families in remote communities.

Field testing of the assessment process in Niger and Ghana raised field staff and local partner awareness of the gender dimensions of climate change vulnerability.

Assessment results will provide a basis for mainstreaming gender equality and diversity in the ALP Program. Gender and diversity issues will be integrated into all aspects of the program, including climate-resilient livelihoods strategies, disaster risk reduction initiatives, capacity building for local organizations, and advocacy.

The Challenges

Some of the challenges included:

- The lack of scaled-down climate information. The CVCA is designed to overcome this challenge by linking local-level knowledge and observations with broader climate data and trends.
- The issues involved in making climate change information relevant and useful for local stakeholders. Because the CVCA starts with peoples' existing knowledge, it creates openings for communicating scientific information about climate change and to link this information to people's experiences.
- Translating concepts (vulnerability, hazards, livelihoods) into local languages. Preparation is the key to overcoming challenges of translation and communication of concepts. It is important that facilitators discuss and come to a common understanding of how concepts will be explained during field exercises.

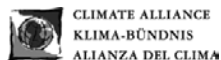
Potential for Replication

The CVCA process can be used to better understand vulnerability to climate change in any community. The methodology can be used for targeted adaptation initiatives, or to mainstream climate change adaptation issues into livelihoods programs. CARE is currently refining the methodology based on field tests, and planning a publication for release at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (CoP14) in Poland, December 2008.

For more information, please contact:

Angie Dazé, Regional Climate Change Coordinator, CARE International
angie@careclimatechange.org

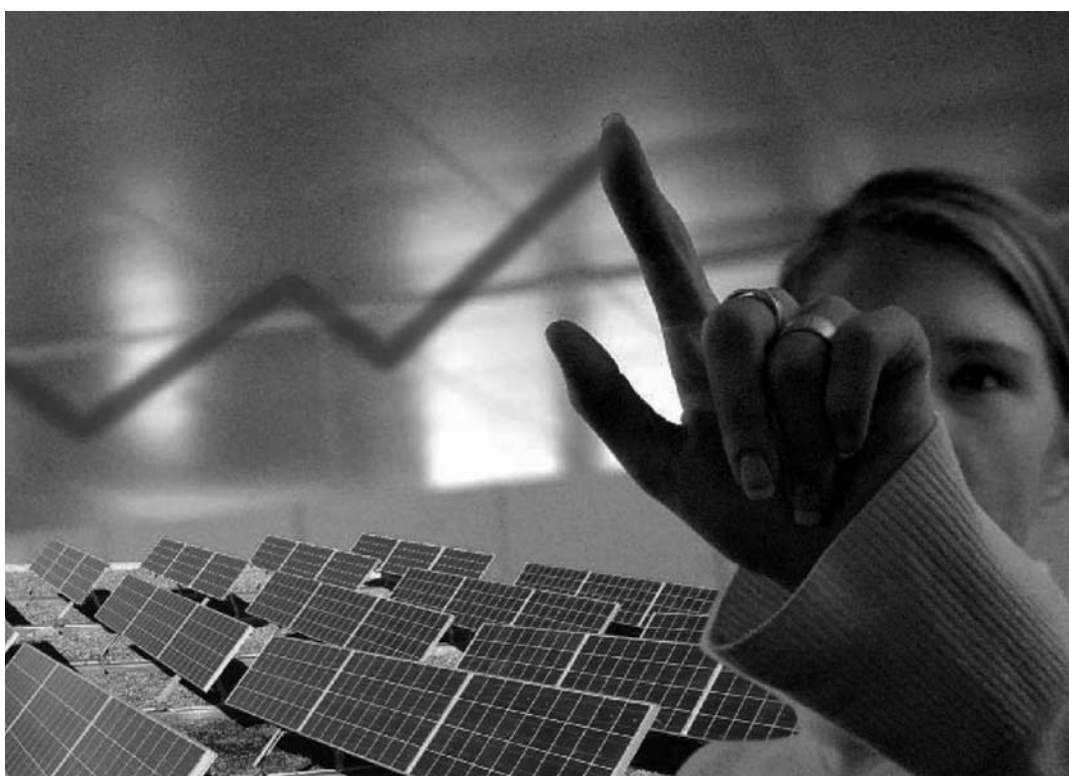
Europe Region



Climate for change: gender equality in climate change policies

The Climate Alliance of European Cities

(In partnership with European Commission and Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth of Germany)



Abstract

The 'Climate for Change' Toolkit supports local authorities in pro-women workforce policy in all fields of work relevant to climate protection. The goal of the tool is to increase the proportion of women in executive positions with responsibility for climate change policies and programmes.

How the initiative links Gender, DRR and Climate Change

The initiative is focused closely on increasing the proportion of women at decision-maker level in European local body administrations involved in climate change issues. The Toolkit is applicable across all areas of government work, and should have particular pertinence for local and national disaster management bodies, and all organizations that must deal with climate change adaptation to increasingly intense and frequent natural hazards.

The Initiative

The project aimed to improve the participation of women in decision making processes related to climate policies, with an emphasis on the local level. It analysed instruments and policies that were being applied by several local authorities in Europe, and based on this regional review of best practice, worked with experts to produce the 'Climate for Change' Toolkit. The Toolkit contains data, facts and arguments, specific tools for the promotion of women in management and executive positions, a gender check, and awareness raising materials like leaflets and posters.

The process of developing the toolkit was:

- Carrying out national surveys of framework conditions
- Research of the situation at decision-maker level
- Analysis of the current situation in the partner cities
- Interviews with relevant staff and experts
- Identification of good practices
- Analysis of EU funding programmes
- Conception of tool kit
- Creation of an expert data base
- Compilation of toolkit
- Work with press and media
- Dissemination of results.

The Toolkit was completed in February 2005, and was provided to around 2000 public authorities. The project was implemented in a total of 10 partner cities in Europe (Berlin, Dresden, Ferrara, Frankfurt am Main, Genova, Lahti, Malmö, Munich, Naples, Venice) Apart from the 10 partner cities, Climate Alliance implemented the project together with genanet, the German focal point for Gender & Sustainability. The project was funded by the European Commission within DG Employment and Social Affairs' Gender Equality Programme and by the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth of Germany.

The Good Practice

The Climate for Change project was the first wide-scale effort in Europe to start a discussion in the environment departments of public authorities on the problem of having climate change policies and programmes that were only designed by one gender.

The preliminary focus was on raising awareness, and on the promotion of women to more senior positions in climate change decision making. All partners were willing to continue the initiative with a project dedicated to the actual design of local climate change policies with a gender perspective, but unfortunately the project was not successful in finding funding.

Lesson(s) Learned

- Much more research has to be done on gender specific approaches to climate change and even more in adaptation of climate change policies in order to promote gender equality as a fundamental contribution to sustainable development.
- There were some problems in providing concrete examples for the need of gender equality in local climate change policies in Europe. Improved initiatives should focus on topics within the overall theme but with a limited scope in order to address exactly the relevant persons and bodies in charge and to achieve very concrete results which can serve as evidence.

Impacts & Results

The project kicked off discussion of the need for gender perspectives in public administrations dealing with climate change. Male executives in the partner cities in particular, became sensitized to the need for gender equality in public authorities, and the impact of a lack of gender perspectives on the design of local policies.

The Challenges

A major challenge was engaging the (male) executives in the partner cities to be actively involved in the project. Fortunately, with the project's very motivated (female) staff and with the help of a well illustrated presentation of gender aspects in local climate change policies, the project was able to overcome this challenge.

Potential for Replication

This project is easily applied to all technology dominated topics within public administrations in Europe.

For more information, please contact:

Ulrike Janssen,

u.janssen@climatealliance.org

See the toolkit website: <http://www.climateforchange.net/54.html>

Annex 1

List of Contributors

Bolivia	Javier Zubieta, National Representative of Intercooperation. Nicole Clot, Team Forest- Environment / Climate Change Group, Intercooperation Switzerland
Brazil	Thais Corral, Coordinator, Rede de Desenvolvimento Humano-REDEH Pedro Fernando Caballero-Campos, DRR and Environment specialist
India	M.P. Sajani, Director, Action for Disaster Reduction and Inclusive Development (ADRID); Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Magsaysay Awardee, Dasholi Gram Swaraj Mandal; Santosh Kumar, National Institute of Disaster Management, India Harjeet Singh, Emma Turner, International Emergencies and Conflict Team, ActionAid International; Marion Khamis, International Emergencies and Conflict Team, ActionAid International
Mali	Johanna Togola, Coordinator Division of Gender, Energy and Environment, Mali-Folkecenter Nyetaa; Anni Vihriälä, Mali-Folkecenter Nyetaa Nicole Clot, Climate Change Group/Forest-Environment Team, Intercooperation Switzerland
Nepal	Marion Khamis, Tamara Plush, International Emergencies and Conflict Team, ActionAid International Rita Jayasawal Dhakal, Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor, CARE Nepal; Christina Chan, CARE USA
South Africa	Kylah Forbes-Biggs, Research Fellow, African Centre for Disaster Studies, North West University Potchefstroom
Tajikistan and Africa	Angie Dazé ,Regional Climate Change Coordinator Southern and West Africa, CARE International; Dr Charles Ehrhart, Climate Change Coordinator, Care International
Tunisia	Fayçal Zammouri, président Association des Jeunes de Zammour Béni Khédache, Aicha Zammouri; Nouredine NASR, Programme Officer, Environment/Gender UNDP Tunisia; Abdelkader Baouendi, National Coordinator, Micro Finance for Environmment. UNDP Tunisia
Europe	Ulrike Janssen, Director, European Secretariat, Climate Alliance for European Cities
The Pacific	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Land Resources Division, Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific Programme. Aleki SISIFA, Director of SPC Land Resources Division; Mereseini Seniloli, DSAP Micronesia, Cheryl L Anderson, Director, Hazards, Climate & Environment Program, University of Hawaii

Networks	Climate - L Listserv - The International Institute for Sustainable Development (iisd) The Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction Genre en Action Gendercc- Women for Climate Justice Gender and Disaster Network UNDP Gender Network WEDO Listserv - Women's Environment and Development Organization
----------	---