

Anne Kuriakose, Sr. Social Development Specialist, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)

**Gender-Responsive Climate Change Mitigation in Asia and Beyond
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Remarks

Thank you very much, and thanks to ADB, the Nordic Development Fund, and other partners, for this invitation. It is always stimulating to be amongst fellow practitioners working to advance gender and climate action. I am looking forward to the conversations here in Hanoi over the next couple of days.

My name is Anne Kuriakose and I am the Sr. Gender Specialist at the Climate Investment Funds.

I have been asked to speak about how the Climate Investment Funds works to mainstream gender across its programming; how countries can be supported to ensure that their NDCs are most gender-responsive; and how those gathered here can learn more about the CIF and participate in the process.

You are familiar with the overall context we find ourselves in. With COP22 now complete and its ambitious implementation agenda for Parties standing as a challenge to all climate actors, we must work now more than ever towards scaled-up action that reflects countries' priorities and extend benefits to all persons – to women and men, those from indigenous communities, from isolated and lagging regions, those engaged in natural resource-based livelihoods, and many others under threat from climate impacts.

- The Climate Investment Funds, or CIF, were established in 2008 to test, deploy, and learn about climate finance at scale for renewable energy, sustainable forest management, and climate-resilient development investments. The CIF has been providing USD 8.3 billion since 2008 to catalyze and scale up investments in 72 countries in over 300 projects across the globe, and have a high leverage ratio, mobilizing an additional 58 billion in investment co-finance – or about USD 7 for every USD 1 provided by the CIF.
- We have four programs (CTF; SREP; FIP and PPCR), and are implemented through the multilateral development banks - World Bank Group, and four regional banks (AfDB, ADB, EBRD, IDB). East Asian and Pacific countries are represented across all four CIF programs.¹ Countries that join these programs prepare

¹ Under CTF, focused on middle-income countries, we have Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines represented. Under SREP, there is Cambodia, Kiribati, Mongolia, and the Pacific Region (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu). Under FIP, we have Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Indonesia. Under the PPCR program, there is participation by Cambodia, Philippines, and the Pacific Region (PNG, Samoa, Tonga).

investment plans that lay out their national goals in the sector, and identify additional individual projects under the plan to be funded by MDBs.

CIF GENDER ACTION PLAN – A few years after its founding, CIF realized that its performance in gender needed to improve. In 2014, we launched the CIF Gender Action Plan to improve gender integration across the CIF. Implemented in partnership with the MDBs, countries and observers to the CIF, the Plan also established a CIF Gender Working Group of MDB representatives to support regular implementation, one member of which is present here today. Efforts under the Plan included closer monitoring of the gender ‘quality at entry’ of CIF investment plans and projects; enhanced South-South learning and capacity building on gender; and development of sector-specific tools for implementers. We also benefited from regular dialogue with other climate finance funds undertaking their own gender integration efforts, and engagement with CIF observers and others, such as WEDO, IUCN, and Heinrich Boell Foundation present here today.

- With implementation of the Plan, we have seen great improvement on CIF performance on gender. Baseline data had shown a significant gap between gender performance in mitigation compared to adaptation, particularly under the large-scale CTF program which was lagging the most on gender. However, I am proud to report that this gap has been narrowing, and our most recent round of reporting showed strong performance by new CTF projects on gender, including in the private-sector space.²
- Allow me to share with you a few examples of gender-responsive mitigation efforts in energy under the CIF. Come see me separately for details on our exciting work in forestry as well.
 - In **Colombia**, CTF’s private-sector Program for Renewable Energy (PERC) which is generating 28 MW of RE through third party solar development models, features gender-inclusive workforce development and job creation, including STEM internships to enhance women’s employment pipeline. The private-sector project sponsor entity has also signed on to UNWomen’s Empowerment Principles for equitable and inclusive workplaces, and is seeking certification under nationally recognized programs in gender equality.
 - In **Haiti**, the Modern Energy Services for All project features support to female energy entrepreneurs in its mini-grids investments. Large direct and indirect employment impacts for women are present by design. The project scales up CSO models of creating a local market for certified solar lanterns and solar kits, and village grids- with pre-paid and pay as you go meters.

² Interestingly, our SREP program has always performed well on gender under the Plan. One lesson from Phase 1 is that the SREP’s program’s stricter requirements on gender as a funding criteria, have had positive impacts on the extent to which teams take gender into consideration – reaffirming again the importance of explicit requirements to ensure meaningful response. [A second key lesson is around the importance of aligning gender investment efforts with governments’ own policy targets around gender, inclusion and poverty reduction.]

Real-time monitoring of consumer satisfaction and productive utilization of energy services will be undertaken with both women and men.

- And right here in **Vietnam**, the Sustainable Urban Transport for HCMC Mass Rapid Transit Line 2 project is increasing women's access to transport services, to direct employment in transport, and to gender-responsive transport design.³
- From the SREP program, the **Maldives'** Preparing Outer Islands for Sustainable Energy Development program, features reduced off-peak and shoulder-rate electricity tariffs for women-owners SMEs; a gender-inclusive community outreach program targeting women's development committees and women consumers in the outer islands to improve household-level demand-side management, and training targets for at least a quarter of energy parastatal trainees to be women.
- And finally, **Nepal's** Rural Electrification through Renewable Energy Project under SREP fosters mini-grid development and the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) which has a strong rural livelihoods outreach and technology transfer mandate supporting productive uses of energy, particularly among women from low-income tiers, ethnic minority groups, and female-headed households.⁴

We can see from these examples that a good deal of upstream thinking and design on gender-responsive models is being undertaken among CIF investments. We are seeking to support changes at the levels of institutions, individuals, and markets. With our improved monitoring and evaluation, we are now following up to ensure that the quality of implementation matches these ambitions, and that sustainable institutional changes are put in place to help support these efforts.

- I am happy to report that building on successes of the first Gender Action Plan, we have now developed a CIF Gender Action Plan Phase 2 to run through 2020. This Phase 2 Plan was just approved last week by our Joint Trust Fund Committee of contributor and recipient countries, and is available on our website.

³ Targets of 20% of project construction jobs and 30% of station jobs going to women. Gender-responsive features include: dedicate waiting spaces on platforms for women; shop spaces in stations for female-owned businesses; women-only carriages with child seating; secure street lighting and security cameras at stations, multi-modal ticket and scheduling systems to suit the multiple destination transport practices of women; and direct marketing to women as metro users.

⁴ The project includes a business incubator program to increase female-owned enterprises by at least 30%, survey assessments regarding impacts on women's time poverty, gender targets in increased employment, end-user awareness training for newly-electrified households regarding livelihood opportunities and safe use of electricity, and electricity use targets of at least 20% of electricity generated going to productive uses in agriculture and rural enterprise dominated by women.

- The Phase 2 plan features a deliberate shift from gender mainstreaming processes alone, to an emphasis on effecting gender-transformative outcomes. It has a goal of women’s improved asset position, voice, and livelihoods status through access to benefits from CIF-funded investments.
- Phase 2 deepens CIF efforts on policy, technical support, evaluation and learning, and stakeholder engagement. This will include elaboration of a CIF Gender Policy, as well as a renewed analytical and knowledge agenda.
- The Phase 2 plan features 3 pillars in its theory of change: i) CIF-wide and program governance measures; ii) efforts with local and national institutions; and iii) green growth and sustainable livelihoods investments (sector emphases ranging from energy access and inclusive transport; to agricultural productivity and food security in productive landscapes; to DRR and tenure security).
- To track results on the ground, we have a new set of impact indicators, that examine such areas as women’s increased employment in the RE sector, percentage share of female beneficiaries in CIF-funded low carbon transport. We are also looking internally e.g., at the share of CIF observers, trust fund committee members and CIF AU staff that are female.

SUPPORTING NDC IMPLEMENTATION: With the Paris accord, and the focus on implementation present at Marrakech, we see the imperative of moving forward with climate investments at scale.

- The CIF is uniquely positioned to support countries’ implementation of their NDCs as the CIF is implemented through the MDBs, which advise and support countries at their invitation in low-carbon, resilient development strategies and investments. Further, the CIF is the only climate fund to work through a country-led *programmatic* planning process, in which governments plan long-term sequenced investments in partnership with diverse stakeholders to achieve national or sector-wide transformation.
- This model provides important traction for large-scale advances in line with the priorities that countries have set for themselves in their Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs).⁵
- The CIF sees a large range of resilience and mitigation frontier areas that need large-scale investment, from clean transport and energy efficiency to distributed generation and investment in productive landscapes, all of which have gender implications and necessitate technical support with lessons from earlier work. For

⁵ The PPCR program of the CIF has been particularly effective in helping countries to develop integrated approaches to planning for climate resilience using multi-sector investments, and planning approaches that coordinated across multiple ministries. The vast majority of these investments include gender-responsive elements, and investments targeted at women, including in such as areas as social protection, and soil and water management.

example, EBRD, together with the CIF AU, has just completed development of a toolkit on gender and energy efficiency in the district heating sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. As countries plan for large-scale transition to clean energy, provision for upstream gender planning in these investments becomes crucial.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: There are many ways to learn about and participate in the work of the CIF.

- From the start, the CIF has been designed to ensure transparent governance of the Funds, and independent evaluations have commended us for this. All of our program materials, policy and funding decisions, and committee deliberations are available online for review,
- We have a robust system of formal observers to the CIF, and some of our observers are at the workshop here in Hanoi this week. We have over 30 observers representing indigenous peoples, CSOs, and private sector constituencies. They serve for a two-year term, and the selection process for a new round of observers will start in May 2017. If there are any groups here interested in participating as observers to the CIF, please do see me for more information.
- We were also happy at Marrakech to launch the new Stakeholder Advisory Network (SAN) which provides a platform for observers of climate finance to share info, both current and former observers of CIF and GCF.
- The learning, linking and leveraging approach of CIF is an important feature of how we do business. We hold regular global pilot country meetings where sector-specific lessons are shared across countries, as well as targeted regional events on specific topics. I would like to draw your attention to an event we will hold from Feb 5-8 in Myanmar, on off-grid renewable energy investments in Asia. This workshop will include a targeted discussion on gender and off-grid energy; again, please see me in the Marketplace sessions tomorrow for more information.
- Finally, the CIF gender program is also planning a large-scale study on gender and renewable energy to be launched in FY17. We are looking for groups who are interested to participate in a reference group for that study. Please see me for more info.

CONCLUSION: We are all seeking to enhance countries' policies and programming on climate to be more gender-responsive. We encourage those assembled here to follow and provide input to the implementation of the CIF programming and the CIF Gender Action Plan – Phase 2. Recall that Vietnam is a member of our CTF program, Lao PDR a member of our FIP program, and Cambodia a member of SREP, FIP and PPCR. You are invited to contact myself, the observer representatives, or government focal points listed on our website for further information. I thank you for the opportunity to share a bit of our approach at the CIF and look forward to our discussions over the next two days.