

Gender and Climate Finance: New Data on Women in Decision-Making Positions

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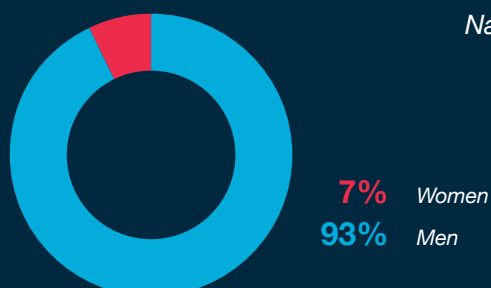
Climate change impacts and responses are not gender-neutral; thus, climate financing mechanisms and resource allocations meant to address these differentiated impacts must be gender-responsive. Women's direct participation in climate change decision making, including in governing bodies of climate finance mechanisms, is a crucial aspect to effectively and equitably designing, implementing, and funding climate solutions.

A gender-responsive climate finance architecture can play a profound role in supporting a comprehensive climate change framework—and complementary sustainable development pathway—that promotes an equal and resilient economy for women and men. Historically, climate finance has had limited focus on and benefit for the poorest and most disadvantaged populations within developing countries, and for women in particular. This exacerbates vulnerability and climate injustice, and overall reduces the resilience of nations to the impacts of climate change. Recently, however, mandates by and for the key climate finance mechanisms indicate a more gender-responsive future.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN FINANCE DECISION MAKING

Finance Ministers

Women's empowerment and access to political decision making and climate finance leads to better results in adaptation and mitigation efforts. The insight of both women and men for financing environmental and climate change projects can promote more effective management and use of finance—particularly for countries receiving funds, but also for the countries that provide funding. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Environment and Gender Index (EGI) examined how many women currently hold positions as national Finance Ministers and found that women are dramatically under-represented in this leading position on finance at the national level: **globally, only 14 (7%) of the 193 UN Member States' Finance Ministers are women.**

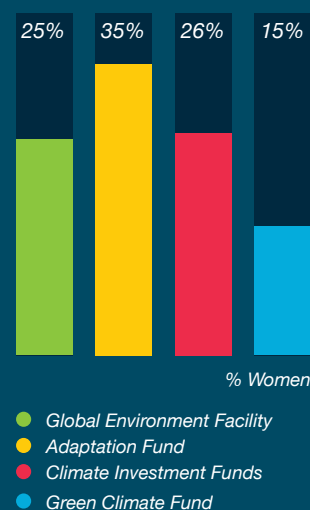


National Finance Ministers

CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS

To better understand one key aspect of gender-responsive climate decision making, the EGI team also analyzed the participation of women and men in decision-making positions of governing bodies of the major multilateral climate financing mechanisms. The EGI found that, on average, **women make up only 24% of these leadership positions**—with the board of the Adaptation Fund (AF) garnering the highest ratio with just over a third of the board members women.

Participation of Women on Climate Finance Mechanism boards



The EGI data presented here on women's participation in finance mechanism decision making demonstrates just one aspect of recognizing women's rights and empowerment in climate change policy and action. The data signals a major gap, however, in implementing commitments to advancing gender equality and women's participation and leadership, as mandated by myriad global agreements on climate change and climate financing. Moreover, inequitable representation at this key global level suggests a disconnect between recognizing who most urgently needs climate funds and who has the ability to access them. Despite the mandates and progress, equitable decision making is yet to exist.

GENDER POLICIES AND ACTION IN CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS

The recent integration of gender considerations into the key multilateral climate finance mechanisms marks considerable progress towards equality and serves as a crucial signal to the wider global climate finance architecture—including private sector and bilateral actors—of the importance of inclusive and equitable resources, participation, and access to funding.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), AF, Climate Investment Funds (CIF), and Green Climate Fund (GCF) include a gender policy and/or action plan in some form, as of December 2015. And yet, the funds lack accountability measures to ensure that the needs of women and women's organizations are included in decision making—resulting in positive impacts for sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. This lack of accountability translates into a lack of access for those with the greatest needs, including women, to the financial resources and services already available.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER INDEX (EGI)

The first monitoring and accountability mechanism of its kind, the EGI was launched by IUCN in 2013. With some of the best data to date on how countries are realizing their commitments to environmental sustainability and women's empowerment, the EGI found that countries which take seriously their commitments to advancing gender equality in environmental arenas are making strides toward long-term wellbeing for all their citizens. Since 2013, the EGI team has been expanding the EGI to a global dataset and developing more indicators to close the wide data gaps in this field. More information and EGI data can be found at <http://genderandenvironment.org/egi/>.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

The GEF Council has a 25% participation rate of women—15 of 61 council members are women.

Objective: Finances sustainable development and global environmental protection. Focal areas include: biodiversity; climate change; international waters; land degradation; chemicals and waste; and sustainable forests and land management.

Gender equality in organizational structure:

- GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming
- Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP)
- Gender specialist

ADAPTATION FUND (AF)

Adaptation Fund has a 34% participation rate of women—10 of 29 board members are women

Objective: Finances concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in an effort to reduce adverse effects of climate change.

Gender equality in organizational structure:

- Human rights and gender equality as principles under its environmental and social policy
- Gender policy (drafted; to be reviewed by the board in 2016)

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS (CIF)

The governing body of CIF includes two committees: the Clean Technology Fund and the Strategic Climate Fund. Combined, 9 of 34 committee members, 26%, are women.

Objective: Provides country-led investments in clean technology, renewable energy, sustainable management of forests, and climate-resilient development.

Gender equality in organizational structure:

- Gender Action Plan
- Gender specialist

GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

The GCF Board has a 15% participation rate of women—7 of 48 board members.

Objective: Finances low-emission and climate-resilient programs in developing countries to adapt to impacts of climate change to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Gender equality in organizational structure:

- Gender considerations anchored in the Governing Instrument
- Gender integration in key operational policies
 - Gender Policy and Action Plan
 - Gender specialist

CONTACT

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