



# Integrating Gender Considerations Into Ghana's National Adaptation Plan Process:

A Strategy for the Green Climate Fund Adaptation Planning  
Readiness Project

## SUMMARY BRIEF

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Ghana's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) aims to address the country's medium- and long-term adaptation needs in a coherent and coordinated manner (EPA, National Development Planning Commission & Ministry of Finance, 2018). Ghana recently launched the Green Climate Fund (GCF) NAP readiness project to kick start the NAP process in the country with the ultimate goal of developing a costed national adaptation plan. Ghana has committed to developing a fully gender-integrated NAP that clearly describes women's and men's different climate vulnerabilities, as well as a roadmap of actions to address them (Ministry of Finance, Republic of Ghana and UN Environment, 2019). To support the achievement of this ambition, a strategy has been developed to ensure and guide the effective integration of gender considerations throughout the main activities of the project. This brief provides an overview of the strategy.

## Key Gender and Adaptation Issues

The following are the key issues that must be taken into account for a gender-responsive NAP process:

- Gender (in combination with other factors, including age, race, ethnicity, disability, class, and location) influences people's vulnerability to climate change and their adaptive capacity. These issues must be considered—and inequalities addressed—for adaptation efforts to be effective.
- Women's unpaid and informal work is essential for household and community resilience, and must be recognized and valued in adaptation planning efforts. This demands that planning is informed by gender analysis, which provides an understanding of existing roles and responsibilities in the household and community, to identify actions that reduce the burden on women.
- A range of strategies—including dialogue, behaviour-change campaigns, and direct engagement of men—is needed to challenge unhelpful social norms and practices that are discriminatory toward women.
- Prejudiced beliefs, social norms, and other obstacles mean that women are under-represented in decision making, from the household to the national level. These imbalances must be corrected for adaptation processes to be gender responsive.
- There remain gender gaps in access to education, resources, and services that represent a barrier to adaptation for women, particularly those from marginalized groups.
- Disaggregated data—by gender, age, wealth, ethnicity, etc.—are central to developing and implementing evidence-based policies that can transform the lives of women and marginalized groups. Analysis of disaggregated data is critical for effective policy decisions on climate change generally and for the NAP process specifically.

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## Why Integrate Gender Considerations in the NAP Process?

Climate change affects different people in different ways depending on gender. Women and men play specific roles in their households and communities and are therefore exposed in unique ways to climate risks. There are also gender differences in opportunities, access to and control over resources and decision-making power, all of which influence people's adaptation priorities and capacity to adapt (UNFCCC, 2015b, 2018; Vincent et al., 2014). A gender-responsive NAP process takes these issues into consideration while actively promoting gender equality (Dazé & Dekens, 2017; NAP Global Network & UNFCCC, 2019).

The need to consider gender issues is recognized in the Paris Agreement under the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which calls for climate action to be gender responsive (UNFCCC, 2015a). This call is further elaborated in the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan, which were agreed in 2019 (UNFCCC, 2019). These decisions by Parties to the UNFCCC create a strong mandate for countries to integrate gender in climate policies and action, and Ghana has expressed its commitment to acting on this (Ministry of Finance, Republic of Ghana & UN Environment, 2019; Republic of Ghana, 2015). By taking a gender-responsive approach, Ghana can ensure that its NAP process addresses gender differences in adaptation needs and priorities; promotes gender-equitable participation in adaptation decision making; and generates equitable benefits from adaptation investments (NAP Global Network & UNFCCC, 2019).

## Entry Points for Integrating Gender Considerations in the NAP Process

A gender-responsive NAP process requires attention to gender issues throughout all of its activities. The following are key entry points in the planned activities under the GCF project where gender considerations may be integrated:

- Establishment of institutional arrangements for the NAP process, including the Climate Ambassadors and Cross-Sectoral Policy Groups.
- Climate risk and vulnerability assessments that will be conducted to inform adaptation planning.
- Economic appraisals of adaptation strategies.
- Development of the NAP document and district-level adaptation plans.
- Establishment of the monitoring and reporting system for the NAP process.
- Information-sharing efforts, including through the climate risk and vulnerability information portal.
- Development of concept notes for implementation of adaptation actions.
- Training and capacity building for actors at different levels.
- Private sector engagement efforts.

## The Need for Disaggregated Data at All Levels for Effective Adaptation

Disaggregated data are central to developing and implementing evidence-based policies that can transform the lives of women and marginalized groups. Data that is disaggregated by gender, as well as other factors that influence vulnerability to climate change (age, location, wealth, level of education, ethnicity, disability, class etc.) is critical to make effective policy decisions. This enables analysis of who is vulnerable to climate change and why, providing the basis for targeted adaptation actions that address climate risks as well as the underlying causes of vulnerability. This data must be collected and analyzed over time and at different points, including in post-disaster contexts. To achieve this, statistical offices require training in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, so that they can work with other actors to produce such data, use it for decision making, and disseminate the learning that is generated through the analysis. This is an essential basis for effective and gender-responsive implementation of policies, including the NAP process (R. Mensah-Kutin, personal communication, June 22, 2020).

## Principles for a Gender-Responsive Approach to the NAP Process

The strategy contains detailed recommendations for integrating gender considerations into the different activities of the NAP process. The following principles summarize the approach that will be taken (NAP Global Network & UNFCCC, 2019):

- Commit to a gender-responsive process by including this in the Climate Change Bill and establishing a gender code of conduct that will guide all actors involved in the NAP process.
- Ensure equal representation of women and men in all institutional mechanisms and stakeholder platforms established to coordinate the NAP process.
- When organizing workshops and other events related to the NAP process, aim for gender balance in speakers and participants and include gender issues on the agenda.
- Engage representatives of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, as well as civil society actors working on gender equality, in all decision-making processes related to the NAP process.
- Build capacity on gender among the different actors involved in the NAP process.
- Use gender analysis and disaggregated data (by gender, as well as other factors that influence vulnerability to climate change) to inform decision making in the NAP process.
- Ensure that risk and vulnerability assessments and appraisals of adaptation strategies consider gender differences in adaptation needs and capacities.
- Identify gender-specific adaptation options where appropriate, addressing gender differences in roles, livelihood strategies, and access to information and resources.
- Develop targeted communications and information-sharing strategies for different groups, taking into account gender issues that may create imbalances in access to information.
- Ensure that efforts to leverage and enhance private sector investments in the NAP process are accessible by both men and women—and do not exacerbate existing inequalities.

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