



Gender and Climate Information Services in Africa

Keiso Matashane-Marite
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section
Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division

30 June 2020



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Introduction.....

- Is the CIS Data Generation an Inclusive Process?
- Are gender concerns taken into account in packaging, analysis and dissemination?
- CIS platform is digital
 - Is the gender digital divide being dealt with?
 - Are we dealing with the technical divide? STEM and Climate Sciences?
- Diversity of Africa to be addressed in strengthening CIS engagement (**Lessen One glove fits all**)





Gender Issues in Climate Change Terrain

- **Climate Change Impact – Not Gender Neutral;**
 - Inequality exacerbate CC vulnerabilities and Vice Versa
 - Disproportionate Impact and Time Poverty for income-generating activities
 - Feminized Poverty as economic growth does not reach women, high concentration on informal insecure sectors
- **Women Comprise an 48% of active population in agriculture in Africa;**
- **Women own less than 15 percent of agricultural land in Africa. Affirmative Policies Not Wide Spread**





Gender Issues in Climate Change terrain....

- Disproportionate vulnerability after climate-induced disasters;
- Heavier workload involving clean-up work, subsistence activities and care-giving;
- Risk of being exploited – may be refused their rights to land and property or exposed to violence and abuse;
- adverse weather conditions may expose higher incidence of disease due to gender-based discrimination in the distribution of resources, food or medicine





Policy and Legislative Environment...

- **Weak Policy and Legislative Environment;**
 - Limited climate-informed policy and decision-making in Africa;
 - Where there is Policy, Gender Equality is not Sufficiently Analysed;
 - STEM and Digital/ICT Policy not Gender Responsive
- **Gender Inequality Gaps in climate-Sector Policies**
 - Impedes the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation policies;
 - Significantly hampers Africa's sustainable development prospects;
 - Aggressive Gender Responsive Legislative and Policy interventions are needed.





Policy and Legislative Environment

- Current trend to frame climate change as a problem that needs technical and scientific solutions makes it difficult gender entry points;
- Paradigm shift needed for human rights and multi sectoral solutions;
- Existing policies related to climate change:-
 - Gender Equality Not Sufficiently Integrated;
 - Poor Implementation;





Strengthening Women CIS Engagement

- Is CIS Process Inclusive and Participatory in its Design? Given the technical and complex subject matter?
- STEM and Climate Science Studies for Girls is a Starting Point and Bridging the Digital Divide;
- Capacity Building by Peers is key and facilitate knowledge sharing between women;
- User friendly Dissemination package and inclusion of beneficiaries in the Packaging
- Climate change impacts should be managed in such a way that there is minimal or no erosion of cultural heritage and loss of livelihoods;
- Collaboration, partnerships and networks are critical, regional and continental collaborations are key.





Strengthening Women's CIS Engagement

- Creating Incentives for Women to Engage in CIS;
- Addressing Gender Inequalities in Access to resources of production, including land, technology and credit;
- Promoting Parity decision-making processes
- Develop Gender Responsive Diversification Policies to Reduce dependence on natural resources;
- Enforce Anti Discrimination Legislation





Strengthening Women CIS Engagement

- **Integrate Gender in national climate change policies through;**
 - Systematic gender analysis utilization of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators and benchmarks
 - Develop practical tools to support increased attention to gender issues
 - Consultation with and participation of women in climate change initiatives, including a strengthened role for women's groups and networks





Strengthening Women CIS Engagement

- **Harnessing women's local knowledge and expertise in mitigation and adaptation**
 - African women - valuable knowledge as well as experience regarding several adaptation mechanisms to environmental stressors
 - Unique position to curb the consequences of climate change
 - Makes them repositories of indigenous knowledge on sustainable practices and coping strategies





Strengthening Women CIS Engagement

- **Financing for gender-sensitive climate change responses**
 - Financing mechanisms - flexible enough to reflect women's priorities and needs
 - active participation of women in the development of funding criteria and allocation of resources for climate change initiatives - particularly at local levels
 - gender analysis of all budget lines and financial instruments for climate change needed to ensure gender-sensitive investments in programmes for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building.





Strengthening Women CIS Engagement

- **Technological developments related to climate change**
 - should take into account women's specific priorities and needs and make full use of their knowledge and expertise, including traditional practices
 - women's involvement in development of new technologies can ensure that they are user-friendly, effective and sustainable.
 - women should have equal access to training, credit and skills-development programmes to ensure their full participation in addressing climate change.





Conclusion

- Transformation Needed in Gender Equality Landscape to Reduce Vulnerabilities;
- Overhaul in Climate Policy Making to Integrate Gender Equality that Prioritizes Access, Participation and Inclusion;
- Provide Incentives for Women to Engage in CIS and reduce time and broad-based poverty.





Thank You



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa