

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO INTEGRATE GENDER INTO CLIMATE RELATED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

• Climate change, vulnerabilities and gender

Countries and communities are affected differently by climate change, mainly because of their level of vulnerability, preparation and resilience to its impacts. Vulnerabilities are function to communities and individuals' social, economic, cultural and political status in the society. Along with geographical location, age, socioeconomic background, poverty level or belonging to a minority group, gender is a central element in the definition of vulnerability; i.e. it plays an important role in identifying and understanding these vulnerabilities.

• Gender and related definitions

Gender is the socially defined attribute and opportunity (including rights, responsibilities and roles in the society) associated with being male and female and the related power relations.

Gender equality means that women and men have equal chances and opportunities to access and control social, economic and political resources, including protection under the law (such as access to health services, education and voting rights).

Gender roles determine what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context, including how each should interact with others within households, communities and work places. These gender roles are usually accompanied by a set of responsibilities that fall under men or women, organized according a specific distribution of tasks at household and community levels (for example, in Lebanon, 23.5% of women are part of the labor market, whereas the proportion of men is 70.3%ⁱ).

These roles are socially constructed and are learned through the socialization process. They are context-specific, time-specific and changeable. They also depend on other factors such as social background, poverty level and age.

Access to and control over resources: because of the role they hold in the society and the responsibilities they have, women and men have different access to resources such as time, energy, health services or production means. Also, they unequally control these resources. Access to a resource means that this resource is available, affordable and meets quality standards. It includes geographic, physical, financial and social accessibility. Having access to a resource is not automatically assorted with the power to decide its use; control over a resource includes the decision-making power over the use of the resource (example: land-ownership determines land-use).

Practical and strategic needs: as a result of the difference in gender roles and responsibilities and the distribution of tasks between men and women, their respective needs are different.

Practical gender needs are the needs of women or men that relate to responsibilities and tasks associated with their traditional gender roles or to immediate perceived necessity. Responding to practical needs can improve quality of life but does not challenge gender divisions or men's and women's position in society. Practical needs generally involve issues of condition or access.

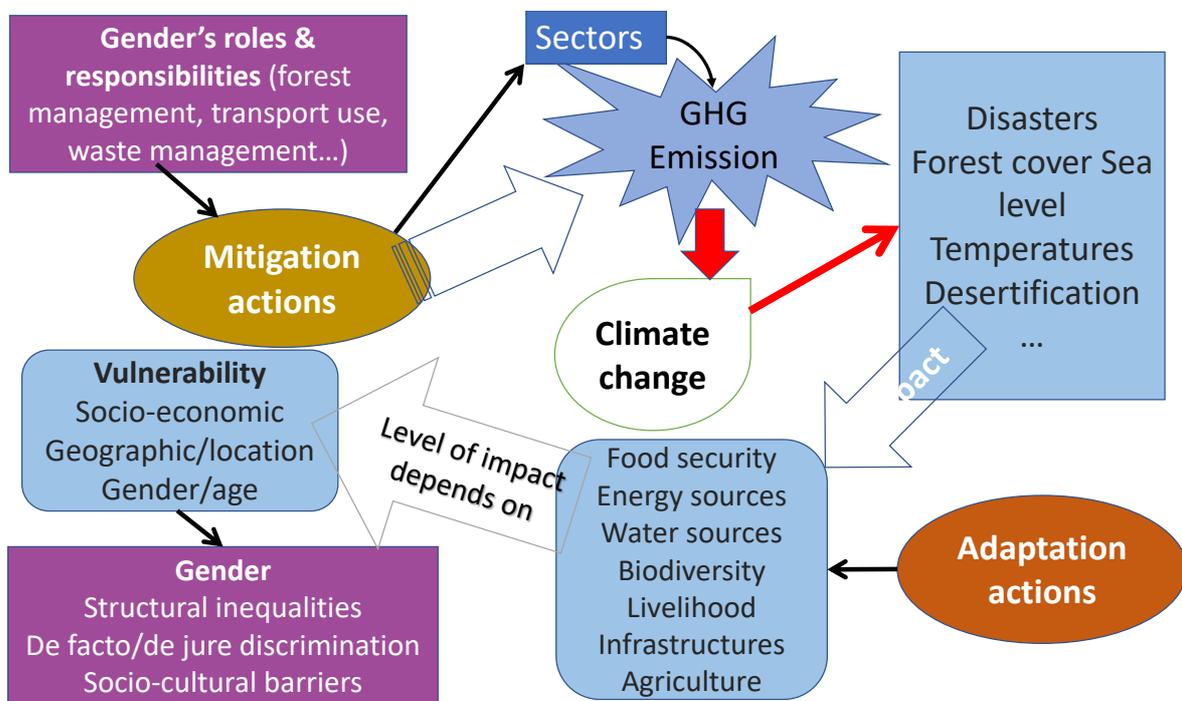
Strategic gender interests concern the position of women and men in relation to each other in a given society. Strategic interests may involve decision-making power or control over resources. Addressing strategic gender interests assists women and men in achieving greater equality and to change existing

gender roles and stereotypes. Gender interests generally involve issues of position, control, and power.

Identifying practical and strategic needs is therefore necessary to formulate gender-inclusive and responsive policies and strategies.

• **Relation between gender and climate change**

Because of the roles they often hold, women are at the forefront of resource management, generally responsible for domestic aspects of energy, water and waste management. As such, they have important roles and responsibilities in climate change mitigation and adaptation. When women and men’s rights and responsibilities differ, these differences often go with unequal power relations that disadvantage women for access to and control over resources and decision-making. As a result, they might have restricted access to services including economic opportunities, education, health and access to technology and be more vulnerable to climate change. A set of adaptation actions should therefore address vulnerabilities to climate change linked to gender.



To promote gender equality and avoid further inequalities, it becomes essential to apply a gender lens to climate change action and ensure that climate change policies are gender-inclusive and gender-responsiveⁱⁱ.

• **What is gender integration?**

To integrate gender is to address differences and inequalities based on gender in each phase of the policy-making process. It starts by identifying these differences and inequalities prior to the policy implementation and as a result of the existing policies to point out:

- How policies can support gender equality;
- How to develop the relevant aspects of these policies when it comes to gender equality.

A policy can be:

- Gender-blind: does not include gender aspects;
- Gender limited: includes some gender aspects (*for instance, addresses practical needs*);
- Gender transformative: include measures that have a positive impact on gender equality (*for instance, addresses strategic needs*).

Too often, policies and strategies are 'gender-blind'. Gender-blind policies can affect women or men negatively and have other negative social and economic consequences even though these consequences were not intended at the design phase.

- **When to integrate gender?**

Gender should be integrated in all stages of the policy-making process and strategy design. During the situation analysis, design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases.

- **Why should gender be integrated?**

Integrating gender helps in building a more equal society, responding to discriminatory situations that undermine social and economic development and enables the participation of a larger part of the population in decision-making processes. Gender integration also contributes to meeting sustainable development goalsⁱⁱⁱ and recent studies demonstrated that gender equality could positively contribute to economic growth.

- **Who is responsible for gender integration?**

Everyone is responsible to ensure that gender is integrated into policies and strategies. Ideally, the Ministry *Gender Focal Points* should always be involved to ensure proper gender mainstreaming into policies and strategies, and gender institutions and national women machineries should play an advisory role. The involvement of local actors (authorities, civil society) in policy-making reinforces the effort of gender-inclusiveness. **To make sure policies and strategies are gender-responsive, a good understanding of the situation at the community level is needed. Therefore, collection of data, or improvement of data collection system can inform practices, behaviors and perceptions in several sectors.**

- **How to integrate gender?**

- A. At the initial phase of the policy or strategy making process

- 1. **Involvement of relevant actors**

To facilitate gender integration, it is crucial to involve a range of actors who will ensure this inclusion because of their knowledge or their mandate. Involving them at the earlier stage can ensure that gender is well-mainstreamed and increases the chances for building gender-responsive policies and strategies. Actors include, among others:

- a. Gender focal points;
- b. Gender institutions and gender experts;
- c. Civil society actors;
- d. Donors;
- e. Other relevant local and national actors (local authorities...).

2. Assessment of the situation

To integrate gender in any policy or strategy, an overview of men and women's role in the related sector will inform the specific aspects that need to be included. The following general questions can be used to assess the situation:

- a. What do we know about the role of gender in this sector?
- b. What type of data would inform on the different roles and needs that men and women have in this sector/field/domain?
- c. What is the data available and how old is this data?
- d. What is the data that we need to update? What is the data that we need to collect?

↩ *Before collecting data, always brainstorm on the needs for data and how it will inform gender relations in the sector with appropriate actors, including gender focal points/gender experts. When effectively identified and collected, data can support a gender-responsive policy-making process.*

3. Collection of data

After the situation has been assessed in the light of available data and once the need for additional data has been identified, a data collection system can be planned. This data collection system can be prepared in partnership with other national institutions, academic institutes, civil society actors and international organizations. It is also beneficial to add on existing data collection systems. Aspects of the data collection include:

- a. Collecting quantitative and qualitative data:
 - i. Sex-disaggregated when applicable;
 - ii. Topics relevant to both men and women's roles;
 - iii. Gender sensitive collection of data: identifying the possible barriers for data collection and make sure to tackle them to ensure both men and women participation.
- b. Mainstreaming gender in the data collection process.

↩ *Gender can affect the data collection process: men and women occupy different spaces in the house and the society, because of their attributed gender role. Thus, it is important to choose carefully where and how the data will be collected to make sure both women and men are considered.*

4. Data Analysis

Analyzing data can inform on several aspects of a specific sector regarding economic, social or political related aspects. It includes the following:

- a. Understanding the difference of access to and control over resources and opportunities for women and men, in rural and urban settings;
- b. Identifying gaps and trends related to gender and other variables (ex.: men/women are more affected by water borne diseases; rural/urban areas are more exposed to floods).

5. Study of gaps and differences and why they occur

Identifying trends and gaps in the studied sector helps understanding how public policies affect men and women differently. It can explain:

- a. How is the impact of these national policies and strategies different for men and women?
- b. What are the other relevant variables to understand these differentiated impacts?
- c. Which aspects of these policies are contributing to gender inequality or preventing women from accessing resources?
- d. What can be done to change these inequalities?

B. In the policy-making process:

1. Involve all relevant actors

Building capacities of women at the ministry level and promoting their participation to enhance their role in the policy making process: they should be involved in the policy-making process at all levels and roles (decision makers/consultation role/ advisory role / part of the process).

→ *collect sex-disaggregated data during the policy making process at ministry level to identify the place that women occupy in the policy making process, their role and their level of participation.*

Levels of participation in the decision-making process:

- Nominal participation is membership or presence by default;
- Passive participation is attending to listen and be informed of decisions without speaking up;
- Consultative participation is to be asked about a specific matter without influencing power;
- Active participation is expressing opinions or taking initiatives, and
- Empowered participation is having influence over decisions.

Make sure men and women are involved in decisions related to domestic aspects or any other activity they are directly involved in (farming, food processing, waste sorting...): policies should enable them to fully participate in the decision that directly affects them. Consider gender roles and responsibilities when formulating policies.

Rely on civil society and local authorities to include more women into the policy-making process.

2. Be proactive in integrating gender

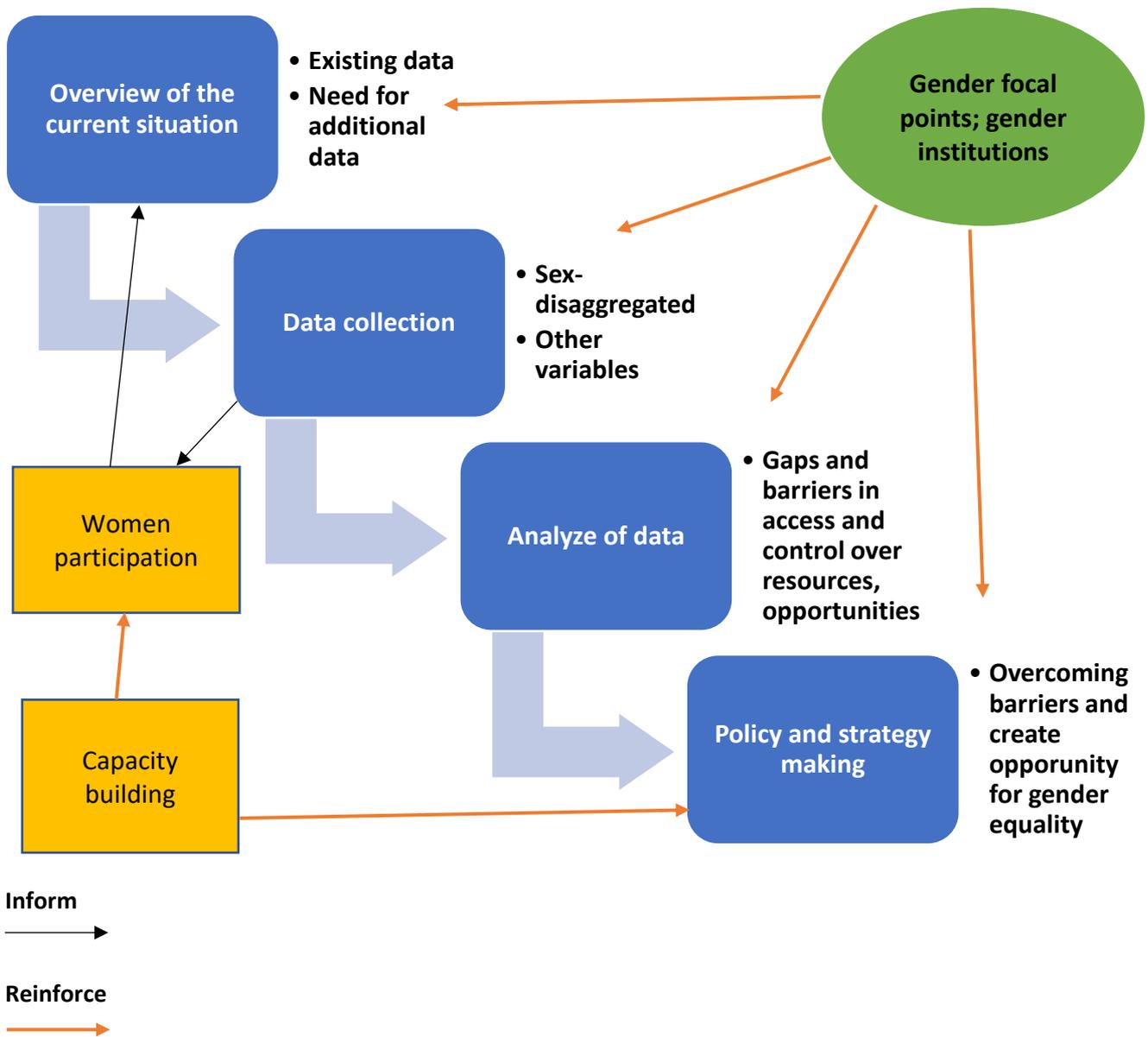
- a. Reinforce the Gender Focal Points' role: involve the focal point at all stages of the policy making process, organize workshop with gender institutions to increase knowledge of policy maker on gender mainstreaming;
- b. Involve donors, if applicable, to make sure gender is integrated in their requirement. Ask for external expertise if needed.

C. When formulating gender-responsive policies

Gender focal points of related ministries should be involved at all stage of the policy making process including at the formulation phase. Their inputs are fundamental to gender responsive policies and they should therefore be able to give their comments and remarks on policy and strategy drafts.

→ *annex gender focal point and gender institutions remarks on policy drafts*

• Building gender-responsive public policies and strategies



• **Examples**

Energy: Green loan facility for energy efficiency	Water: Participation of women in water institutions	Waste: Sorting-at-source
Who is accessing green loans? Data collection disaggregated by sex, age region ↓	How many women are involved in water institutions, what are their grades and roles in these institutions: Data collection ↓	Who is sorting-at-source? Data collection at household and private sector level, disaggregated by sex, age, region, type of economic activities, nationality ↓
<u>Analyze:</u> Are there disparities in loan access between men and women? Which ones? Do men and women have the same access? ↓	<u>Analyze:</u> are women represented in water institutions? At what position? What level of responsibility? Are they occupying decision-making positions? ↓	<u>Analyze:</u> what is the place of men and women in the sorting-at-source? Which groups are more involved (by sex, nationality, age...)? Where is sorting-at-source more common? ↓
If not, why? And what are the barriers that women face in accessing these loans? ↓	If any, what are the barriers and opportunities for women to occupy decision-making positions? ↓	What are the differences between different groups in practicing sorting-at-source? ↓
What can be done to increase women's green loan access?	What can be done to remove these barriers and create opportunities to increase women's participation?	If different, what can be done to involve the whole community in sorting-at-source?
↓ GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES & STRATEGIES		

ⁱ<http://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-5-gender-equality.html>

ⁱⁱ UNDP. (2009). Resource guide on gender and climate change

ⁱⁱⁱ For instance, SDGs 5 and 7 are linked to promote women's access to electricity, clean fuel and technology and participation to increase the share of renewable energy in energy consumption, including investment for sustainable energy options. By enhancing women's empowerment and participation, they could meaningfully contribute toward sustainability of energy use. Energy can play a positive role in women's security and save them time in the realization of their daily tasks (housework for instance).

SDGs 13 and 5 are linked to ensure women's inclusion in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategy-making process, women's meaningful participation in climate change policies and planning and involvement in capacity building programs around climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning, including in schools.

In addition, SDG 5 includes women's rights to "ownership and control over land and other form of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources". This is relevant to climate change sectors, including the agriculture sector, and to women's participation in mitigation and adaptation actions.