Gender and Climate Information Services in Africa

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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