



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA SUBMISSION ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN THE NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING PROCESS

1. Introduction

Kenya is a developing country whose development efforts are increasingly being hampered by the adverse impacts of climate change such as droughts and floods, which have increased in both frequency and intensity over the past decades. These impacts are felt across all sectors including agriculture, health, energy, transport and water. For instance, since 1990, Kenya has been affected by more than ten serious droughts, with each drought reducing the Gross Domestic Product by an average of 3.3 percent with the average annual cost of the damage estimated at \$ US 1.25 billion for drought alone. This has led to loss of lives, diminished livelihoods, reduced crop and livestock production, and damaged infrastructure, among other adverse impacts. The Kenyan population, which is estimated at 50 million (51% women, 49% men) has been growing at an annual rate of 2.8 percent. Most of the population is mainly rural and relies on climate vulnerable nature-based resources. Climate change impacts women and men differently, to the detriment of women and other vulnerable groups.

2. Measures taken to address climate change

In response to these challenges, Kenya has put in place an enabling policy and legal environment for the implementation climate change action. These include the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010); the National Climate Change Action Plans of 2013 – 2017; and 2018 – 2022; The National Adaptation Plan (2015 – 2030); The Climate Change Act, 2016; The National Climate Change Framework Policy; National Policy on Climate Finance; and Sectoral policies such as the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy for the Agricultural Sector, among others. The Climate Change Act establishes institutions at national, sectoral and sub-national levels to address climate change challenges. Such national institutions include the National Climate Change Council, the Climate Change Directorate and the Climate Change Fund to address climate change issues. As regards gender, the State Department for Gender develops relevant policies and coordinates mainstreaming of gender and women’s empowerment in government departments and agencies at national and subnational levels. Additionally, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) coordinates, audits, monitors, facilitates and advises both state and non-state actors on gender equality and freedom from discrimination. The sectoral institutions include the Climate Change Units and Gender Focal Points in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies. At the sub-national levels, the Climate Change Act establishes a minister at the devolved governments in charge of climate change affairs.

All these institutions focus on addressing climate change challenges as they implement the relevant development activities towards the achievement of Kenya’s Vision 2030.

3. Mainstreaming Gender considerations in the NAPs

Kenya appreciates the significance of incorporating gender as a cross-cutting consideration into all the activities of the Adaptation Committee's 2019-2021 work plan, and takes note that Parties' views will feed into the AC's upcoming deliverables, including a plan on how best to incorporate gender considerations into (1) adaptation action and (2) the AC's work plan activities; and an event, in 2020, on identifying gaps and solutions related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation. Therefore, Kenya wishes to share her views as follows:

A: Experiences and best practices in Kenya

i) Experiences

Monitoring and Evaluation: Incorporation of gender issues into most programmes and projects has more often been done on an ad-hoc basis as reactive or corrective measures to address the gaps on gender responsiveness that is usually identified during M&E of the actions/programs. However, programs and activities with purposive consideration of gender issues in their design, planning and implementation have achieved significant positive social impacts in communities.

Resources: There is limited allocation of both financial (budgetary) and human resources vital at enhancing sustainable incorporation of gender issues in adaptation and mitigation actions through projects and programmes. This reduces the ability of these actions to be gender responsive, and results in more marginalization of the disadvantaged gender groups.

Sustainability of Gender Actions: The incorporation of gender issues is sometimes evident in the planning and programme formulation stages of projects, which is often captured in initial reports. However, this often fades away mid-stream as implementation kicks in, mainly due to lack of clear gender indicators and sometimes lack of critical expertise.

ii) Best Practices:

- In the sectors that Kenya has developed, reviewed and implemented gender policies, there is a greater rate of incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation, resulting in positive social impacts.
- Frequent, periodic and timely gender reviews of policies, actions and programs acts as a sound basis to inform Learning and Evaluation for corrective actions as may be relevant. Such measures may be in refocusing (parts of) adaptation actions, the introduction of gender indicators or putting in place new gender responsive actions.
- Under Monitoring and Evaluation of various adaptation actions, the introduction and use of gender specific indicators for direct evaluation of actions has proven to be efficient in incorporating gender considerations into the continuous process of implementation.
- Due to the diverse technical capacities and backgrounds of the actors involved, simplified and highly adaptable gender mainstreaming efforts have shown higher rates of success. Specifically, elaboration of technical terms, less jargon in documentation and actions that address local needs have a higher level of sustainability.

iii) Lessons Learnt

- Literacy levels (including understanding of technical jargon) may limit and inhibit constructive contribution of gender voices/concerns, especially from various actors at the local level (sub national)
- Meeting the expectations or requirements of funding agencies (such as development partners) in an adaptation action or project is a key factor to successful gender mainstreaming in adaptation plans or projects. Such requirements and expectations are critical in shaping the actions and projects.
- Certain projects that have specific objectives (e.g. Food security, Nutrition, Natural Resource Management) have better potential for gender mainstreaming since the relevance of the specified objective to the needs of the intended beneficiaries is high.
- Environmental concern, Economic empowerment and Social benefits are some pillar areas of priorities for gender mainstreaming. Relevant actions/projects should directly impact most of these three areas for greater results in mainstreaming gender, leading to meeting the immediate needs of communities.
- Monitoring and Evaluation should be more participatory and mandatory for all adaptation actions/projects by involving local communities in designing plans and collecting feedback as opposed to current boardroom driven processes.
- While mainstreaming gender is a long term goal, adaptation actions must address the immediate needs of communities for its effects to be realized. Such immediate needs may be manifested in economic empowerment, social issues or environmental concerns.
- Overall, if there was no gender analysis at the planning or onset of adaptation plans and projects, then corrective measures will become difficult and occasionally require out-of-budget intervention as a separate action.

B: Incorporation of gender issues into adaptation action

- There is need to simplify the Gender Action Plan for easier understanding and domestication. The UNFCCC discussions, recommendations and decisions for both gender and adaptation are very technical or difficult and confusing for domestication or implementation by actors at national and sub national levels.
- Gender issues are always given less time, attention or consideration in adaptation discussions. This may be attributed to minimal understanding of the gender issues in adaptation actions, by adaptation experts.
- Most national adaptation actions are targeted at institution levels (schools, hospitals) while the main implementation is at community and household level. This means the adaptation actions should be informed by the gender-responsive established (and immediate) needs of various gender groups.
- Gender responsive budgeting should be intentionally done to implement adaptation plans
- Baseline surveys for programs and projects should be participatory and incorporate gender so that adaptation actions can be accurately measured during M&E. Gender should be a facilitating integrated factor in the baseline surveys.
- Gender responsive indicators for adaptation actions should be developed and used to track, support and influence implementation.
- Gender issues should be demystified not to mean a 'women's affair'. This will improve the contributing role of other gender groups, correct mindset, and enhance gender responsiveness across the board.

- There is need to enhance awareness and capacity building on gender in the context of climate action to accelerate gender mainstreaming in adaptation.
- There is need to build more technical expertise on gender and climate change by training more climate change experts on gender issues, as well as more gender experts on climate change issues.
- There should be a technical review or analysis of adaptation actions by consultative groups of gender and climate change experts for better implementation.
- Academic research on the gender and climate change (adaptation) nexus should be encouraged in order to realize benefits from the immense undocumented knowledge base of lessons learnt, best practices and experiences.

C: Bottlenecks to Gender mainstreaming into adaptation planning and implementation

- *Budget Making:* Inadequate gender responsive budgets to support the implementation of adaptation actions/projects that may have been specified at the planning/onset of the interventions.
- *Capacity Building and Awareness Creation:* Should be initiated through appropriate gender education at all levels of formal education systems. With appropriate education and training, people become more aware of the intricacies of gender in relation to a diversity of disciplines and issues.
- *Gender Human Resource:* There still is inadequate expertise on gender and climate change. Majority of existing experts are gender professionals with limited capacity on climate change issues. While the efforts of the existing experts is highly appreciated, they are often stretched way too much hence the need to intentionally increase the human resource to meet the growing demand. A trans-disciplinary approach (training professionals in other disciplines in gender issues) could help bridge the gap.
- *Gender Baseline Information and Tracking:* There is hardly ever gender analyses prior to initiating projects or programs, hampering efforts to track gender mainstreaming initiatives through monitoring and evaluation.
- *Gender Mainstreaming Reporting:* There is need to develop standardized reporting mechanisms for better data collection to improve MRV. There is also need to mainstream gender into policies, strategies and implementation frameworks as well as decision making processes.
- *Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge:* Community participation should be ensured during all phases of projects and programmes so that implementation is done in a culturally acceptable manner. To effectively do this, the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge is critical and essential for gender mainstreaming.
- *Gender Information:* There is need to overcome information asymmetry through appropriately repackaging gender issues in a manner that conforms to the diverse socio-cultural expectations of target communities.
- *Documentation:* There is need for increased documentation of best practices and lessons for the design of other more gender responsive actions.

- *Non-Uniformity in Gender Assignment:* Since gender is socio-culturally defined, one action does not necessarily meet the practical and strategic gender needs of all cultures. There is need for more research on culturally contextualized needs to avoid mal-adaptation.

D: Useful resources for Gender Mainstreaming

1. Kenya National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030:
https://www.google.co.ke/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUK Ewi_jf3W0ankAhUK1hoKHVQSC5oQFjABegQICxAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww4.unfccc.int%2Fsites%2F NAPC%2FDocuments%2520NAP%2FKenya_NAP_Final.pdf&usg=AOvVaw39ywVq4W_5IGr01PMmjbtP
2. Constitution of Kenya (1/3 gender rule):
<http://kenyalaw.org/8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=Const2010>
3. Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy
<https://www.google.co.ke/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=7&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUK EwiW78vH0qnkAhVKyYUKHV2kDQ0QFjAGegQIABAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mediaterre.org%2Fdoca ctu%2CCcGV4aW5IZy9kb2NzL2tbnlhLWNsaW1hdGUtc21hcnQtYWdyaWN1bHR1cmU%3D%2C11.pdf&usg= AOvVaw0mNaJD8hYfUcVRRdkXKWnm>
4. Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework:
<https://www.google.co.ke/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=10&ved=2ahUK EwiW78vH0qnkAhVKyYUKHV2kDQ0QFjAJegQIBxAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kilimo.go.ke%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F11%2FKCSAIF-2018-2027-1.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2LtImTW10rMC7KYK7xqYCd>
5. Agriculture Sector Transformation Growth Strategy
https://www.google.co.ke/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=2ahUK EwiU5uTC1KnkAhWQxIUkHZG_CjAQFjABegQIAhAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kilimo.go.ke%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2019%2F01%2FASTGS-Full-Version-1.pdf&usg=AOvVaw30tRmuBSw1G-5a6rGGhjMb
6. Study on *"Enhancing Women participation in farmer managed natural regeneration for climate resilience"* Ojuok Irene (of World Vision - Kenya), 2019 (unpublished).
7. Standard Media Group: *Marsabit mother-to-mother support group embraces Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration to protect the environment* By Wesley Kipng'eno (7th June 2019)
<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/evewoman/article/2001328787/marsabit-mother-to-mother-support-group-embraces-farmer-managed-natural-regeneration-to-protect-the-environment>