

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP



JLIFAD

Investing in rural people

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ASAP TECHNICAL SERIES

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GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACCESOS	Economic Inclusion Programme for Rural Families and Communities in the Territory of the Plurinational State of Bolivia project
AMD	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Mekong Delta project
APR	Asia and the Pacific region
ASAP	Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme
ASAP+	Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme
CCA	Climate change adaptation
CDA	Community development organization
COP	Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)
COVID-19	Coronavirus 2019
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture
ECG	Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (IFAD)
ESA	East and Southern Africa region
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer field school
FHHs	Female-headed households
GAL	Gender Action Learning, a gender-responsive behavioural change methodology
GAP	Gender action plan
GEWE	Gender equality and women's empowerment
GTA	Gender-transformative approach
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGA	Income-generating activity
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean region
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MTR	Mid-term Review
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEN	Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia region
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PRELNOR	Project for the Restoration of Livelihoods in the Northern Region (Uganda)
SAIL	Sustainable Agriculture Investments and Livelihoods project (Egypt)
SCG	Savings and credit group
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SECAP	Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (IFAD)
SEDP	Small enterprise development project
SLWM	Sustainable land and water management
SO	Strategic objective (of IFAD's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment policy)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCA	West and Central Africa region
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

The good practices and lessons learned in IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) are a welcome contribution to the state of knowledge of what works and what needs to change in integrating gender dimensions into climate action. The Fund's support of gender-transformative approaches, that tackle root causes of gender inequality, is an important strategy to empower women and engage men as agents of change in tackling climate change impacts. Communication about these experiences is also an important input to the UNFCCC gender action plan. We look forward to IFAD continuing to share experiences, as well as supporting parties to achieve their goals on gender-responsive and transformative climate action.

Source: Fleur Newman, Gender Team lead, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is adversely affecting women and girls specifically because of their gender. That said, women can act as agents of change. It has been shown that when women are making decisions it has resulted in, for example, improved school attendance rates for their children, increased food security, greener mobility patterns and reduced energy demand. On top of this, climate change can result in opportunities for women to access more resources and participate in decision-making owing to shifting gender norms as a result of its impacts.

Source: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 2022. Dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women. FCCC/SBI/2022/7.

Climate change, agriculture and the rural poor

Climate variations, such as changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms, flooding and droughts are increasing in severity and frequency globally. Some current environmental changes, such as reduced annual sea ice cover, are irreversible and further future impacts are now inevitable.¹ The world's rural poor, who rely predominantly on agriculture for their livelihoods and subsistence, are disproportionately affected as they lack the capacities and resources to adapt to these changes. They are already experiencing first-hand the impacts of climate change. Leaving the rural poor behind in global climate action is simply not an option. Family farmers produce around

80 per cent of the world's food in terms of value, while small farmers with less than two hectares produce just over a third.²

Women, smallholder farmers and poor and marginalized communities are being put at ever greater risk from exposure to financial and environmental shocks and power imbalances that prevent them from acting with greater agency and autonomy.

Source: Global Consultation Report, Food and Land Use Coalition.

Climate change and gender

Climate change impacts women, men, girls and boys differently. This is due to the different roles ascribed to them by social norms and unequal access to resources and decision-making. While all poor rural people face challenges in climate change adaptation,³ rural women's historical disadvantage in terms of access to resources, decision-making and benefits means that their adaptive capacity is often weaker than that of men and that they are at greater risk from the impacts of a changing climate. It also means that rural women's unique knowledge and capacities are not contributing their full potential to adaptation and mitigation efforts.

1/ IPCC, *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)* (2022).

2/ S.K. Lowder, M.V. Sanchez and R. Bertini, *Which farms feed the world and has farmland become more concentrated?* (2021).

3/ Men can be more impacted than women in some respects. For example, research by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) showed that stress levels for men in India's Andhra Pradesh were higher than those of women.

Given that rural women account for around 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and in some regions up to 70 per cent for specific crops and livestock, it follows that supporting climate change adaptation (CCA) of women as well as men is crucial to protect food security and nutrition.⁴ Furthermore, it is a clear case of ensuring the human rights of women as well as men: climate justice⁵ and gender justice⁶ must be combined with science and policy to get resilience right.

At a global level, the interlinkages between gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and climate change are being increasingly recognized. Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have recognized the importance of involving women and men equally in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are "gender-responsive".

Why tackling gender inequality and climate change is key to IFAD's mandate

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries and has a vision of achieving inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. For IFAD to achieve this vision and its development goals, it is crucial that climate change and gender are mainstreamed and prioritized within all development projects that IFAD supports, including in its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP).

Looking at IFAD's approach to mainstreaming gender and climate resilience within its operations, it is clear that climate change is of special significance because its impact on IFAD's mission is to enable poor rural people to overcome poverty and hunger. IFAD's approach emphasizes the need for structural transformation. This requires addressing the root causes generating

“Restricted land rights, lack of access to financial resources, training and technology, and limited access to political decision-making spheres often prevent (women) from playing a full role in tackling climate change and other environmental challenges.

Unleashing the knowledge and capability of women represents an important opportunity to craft effective climate change solutions for the benefit of all.”

Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2015. Gender and Climate Change. Strengthening climate action by promoting gender equality. Issues brief.

and reproducing economic, social, political and environmental problems and inequities, and not just addressing their symptoms. IFAD promotes interlinkages between its mainstreaming themes through the implementation of its revised Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2025, as it has recognized that providing women and girls with equal access to assets, opportunities, services, decent work and representation in political and economic decision-making processes is important for achieving equity and justice, and is essential for sustainable rural transformation.

The ASAP approach: making climate finance work for smallholders

In 2012, IFAD launched ASAP to make climate finance work for smallholder farmers. The first phase (ASAP1) financed projects to promote sustainable agricultural practices and climate-smart adaptation for long-term food livelihoods, food security and nutrition to rural women and men. ASAP has played a major role in scaling up successful “multiple-benefit” and “no regrets” approaches in CCA throughout IFAD's portfolio.

4/ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in agriculture closing the gender gap for development* (2011) <http://www.fao.org/3/i2050e/i2050e.pdf> and *The Female Face of Farming* https://farmingfirst.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Farming-First-Female-Face-of-Farming_Brochure.pdf

5/ “Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people ... Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources.” This definition of climate justice (which also includes gender equality as a core principle) is by the Mary Robinson Foundation.

6/ Gender justice entails ending the inequalities between women and men that are produced and reproduced in the family, the community, the market and the state. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), *Gender Justice: Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (2010).

ASAP and gender

IFAD has emphasized GEWE as critical to ASAP from the very beginning and integrated it into the results framework of ASAP1. For example, there is a target that women and girls amount to 50 per cent of target beneficiaries. In addition, the programme promotes “gender-sensitive”⁷⁷ and climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies.

Aim of paper and summary methodology

There are three specific objectives for this paper: (i) to present the results of ASAP1 performance in promoting GEWE across a selection of its portfolio during the period 2012–2020; (ii) to determine whether gender-responsive

approaches and interventions have been successfully implemented; and (iii) to present examples of good practice and lessons learned in mainstreaming gender within ASAP. The ultimate aim is twofold: (i) to present findings and recommendations relevant to those engaged in ongoing projects as well as the second phase of ASAP (ASAP+); and (ii) contribute to the state of knowledge of integrating GEWE in CCA.

This paper is based on a review of 19 out of the 42 projects in ASAP1; four of which are presented as case studies. Summary findings for the remaining 15 projects are presented in Annex III. In addition, further details about the methodology of the review can be found in Annex I.

Key messages

<p>1 ASAP1 appears to be on track to achieve gender targets for direct beneficiaries.</p> 	<p>2 All projects integrate gender dimensions and benefit women in actions towards achieving ASAP1 outcomes.</p> 
<p>3 All three strategic objectives of IFAD’s gender equality and women’s empowerment policy are being supported, in particular those concerned with women’s economic empowerment and equal voice.</p> 	<p>4 The link between gender and climate change adaptation dimensions could be strengthened and made more consistent across the entire ASAP1 portfolio.</p> 
<p>5 ASAP1 programme-level gender commitments are likely to have resulted in generally strong targeting and inclusion of women, but more can be done to target young women and indigenous women, and to engage men.</p> 	

⁷⁷ This paper defines gender sensitive as recognizing different roles of women, men, boys and girls, inequalities and gender power dynamics and trying to mitigate negative impacts in programme/action design. Gender responsive is defined as including specific actions to try and reduce gender inequalities and their causes.



INTRODUCTION: KEY ISSUES

Climate change, agriculture and the rural poor

Climate variations, such as changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms, flooding and droughts are increasing in severity and frequency globally. Some current environmental changes, such as reduced annual sea ice cover, are irreversible, and further future impacts are now inevitable.⁸ Climate change is expected to push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, and stability of the global food supply is projected to decrease as the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events disrupt food chains. The world's rural poor, who rely predominantly on agriculture for their livelihoods and subsistence, are disproportionately affected as they lack the capacities and resources to adapt; they are already experiencing first-hand the impacts of climate change. For many, this includes a growing scarcity of natural resources, rural supply chain disruptions, and high and volatile food and agricultural commodity prices, all of which have been further impacted by the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Leaving the rural poor behind in global climate action is simply not an option. Family farmers produce around 80 per cent of the world's food in terms of value, while small farmers with less than two hectares produce just over a third.⁹ Smaller farms often have higher yields and greater crop as well as non-crop biodiversity than large farms. With the right support, they can restore degraded

ecosystems and reduce agriculture's carbon footprint. Building the resilience of the rural poor and their livelihoods is therefore central to climate action; moreover, investing climate finance in smallholders delivers on multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as outlined by the United Nations.

Women, smallholder farmers and poor and marginalized communities are being put at ever greater risk from exposure to financial and environmental shocks and power imbalances that prevent them from acting with greater agency and autonomy.

Source: Global Consultation Report, Food and Land Use Coalition.

Climate change and gender

Given that rural women account for some 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and in some regions up to 70 per cent for specific crops and livestock, it follows that supporting climate change adaptation (CCA) of women as well as men is crucial to protect food security and nutrition.¹⁰ Furthermore, it is a clear case of ensuring the human rights of women as well as men: climate justice¹¹ and gender justice¹²

8/ IPCC, *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)* (2022).

9/ S.K. Lowder, M.V. Sanchez and R. Bertini, *Which farms feed the world and has farmland become more concentrated?* (2021).

10/ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in agriculture closing the gender gap for development* (2011). <http://www.fao.org/3/i2050e/i2050e.pdf> and *The Female Face of Farming* https://farmingfirst.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Farming-First-Female-Face-of-Farming_Brochure.pdf.

11/ "Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people ... Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources." This definition of climate justice (which includes gender equality as a core principle) is by the Mary Robinson Foundation.

12/ Gender justice entails ending the inequalities between women and men that are produced and reproduced in the family, the community, the market and the state. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), *Gender Justice: Key to achieving the millennium development goals* (2010).

must be combined with science and policy to get resilience right.

Climate change impacts women and men, girls and boys differently. This due to the different roles ascribed to them by social norms, as well as unequal access to resources and decision-making in their homes and communities, and in policy development. For example, it is important to note that while women make up around 43 per cent of the world's agricultural labour force, the plots they manage are 20–30 per cent less productive than plots managed by men. This is often due to legal and economic insecurity, which lead to women's limited access to resources and opportunities and under-representation in climate decisions and actions.

While all poor rural people face challenges in CCA,¹³ rural women's historical disadvantage in terms of access to resources, decision-making and benefits means that their adaptive capacity is therefore often weaker than that of men, and that women are at greater risk from the impacts of a changing climate. It also means that rural women's unique knowledge and capacities are not contributing their full potential in adaptation and mitigation efforts.

A changing climate exacerbates existing gender inequalities; one well known example of this is women's increased workloads due to having to walk long distances for firewood and water. However, it does not stop there: women and girls frequently face violence while having to walk further and further for fuel and water. Their workload may also increase due to having to care for family and animals that are sick more frequently as a result of climatic changes. Women's productive assets are often the first to be sold as households try to cope with failed crops and threatened livelihoods. Of the 26 million people displaced by climate-related disasters every year, it is estimated that some 80 per cent are women.¹⁴ Furthermore, gender differences combine with other socio-economic

factors such as age, class, ethnicity, education and physical disability. Hence, indigenous and disabled women, for example are likely to suffer disproportionately from climate change impacts.

In other words, the “wicked”¹⁵ nature of climate change impacts interact with pervasive gender norms and threaten women's already unequal economic empowerment, decision-making and workloads. Fortunately, the reverse is also true; the pressing need for game-changing

“Restricted land rights, lack of access to financial resources, training and technology, and limited access to political decision-making spheres often prevent (women) from playing a full role in tackling climate change and other environmental challenges.

Unleashing the knowledge and capability of women represents an important opportunity to craft effective climate change solutions for the benefit of all.”

Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Gender and Climate Change: Strengthening climate action by promoting gender equality (Issues brief, 2015).

solutions in CCA can also create opportunities to tackle these inequalities at their roots and even transform gender relations. Finally, transforming gender relations has the potential to unlock rural women's potential to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

At the global level, the interlinkages between gender equality and climate change are increasingly recognized. Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have recognized the

13/ Men can be more impacted worse than women in some aspects. For example, research by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) showed that stress levels for men in India's Andhra Pradesh were higher than that of women's.

14/ CARE, *She leads in Crisis* (2020).

15/ The term is used for extremely complex problems with characteristics, such as there not being a defined set of solutions and there being no room for error in planning solutions. H.W.J. Rittel and M.M. Weber, *Dilemmas in a general theory of planning* (1973).

importance of involving women and men equally in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive by establishing a dedicated agenda item under the Convention addressing issues of gender and climate change, and by including overarching text in the Paris Agreement. At the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP 25) an enhanced work programme on gender and a gender action plan were agreed.¹⁶ One of the priority areas, on gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, is of particular relevance to the mandate of IFAD.

Encouragingly, a study on gender integration in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) suggests a move toward greater alignment with international standards and Parties' own commitments on gender equality, which may signal the importance that these commitments have had in further ensuring gender equality goals are integrated into climate actions.¹⁷

Why tackling gender inequality and climate change is key to IFAD's mandate

IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries and has a vision to achieve inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. For IFAD to achieve this vision and its development goals, it is crucial that climate change and gender are mainstreamed as well as prioritized within the development projects that IFAD supports, including its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP).

Looking at IFAD's approach to mainstreaming gender and climate resilience within its operations, it is clear that climate change is of special significance within IFAD's mission to enable poor rural people to overcome poverty and hunger.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for many poor rural people, and it is also the human activity most directly affected by climate change. When considering rural peoples' vulnerability, it is important to note that while women make up around 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force, the plots they manage are 20–30 per cent less productive than plots managed by men. This is due to legal and economic insecurity, which lead to their limited access to resources and opportunities as well as under-representation in climate decisions and actions.

IFAD's approach emphasizes the need for structural transformation. This requires addressing the root causes of generating and reproducing economic, social, political and environmental problems and inequities and not just addressing their symptoms. IFAD promotes interlinkages between its mainstreaming themes through the implementation of its revised Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2025, as it has recognized that providing women and girls with equal access to assets, opportunities, services, decent work and representation in political and economic decision-making processes is important for achieving equity and justice, and essential for sustainable rural transformation.

The ASAP approach: making climate finance work for smallholders

In 2012, IFAD launched ASAP to make climate finance work for smallholder farmers. The first phase (ASAP1) financed projects to promote sustainable agricultural practices and climate-smart adaptation for long-term food livelihoods, food security and nutrition to rural women and men. ASAP has played a major role in scaling up successful "multiple-benefit" and "no regrets" approaches in CCA throughout IFAD's portfolio. See Box 1 for more details about ASAP.

16/ UNFCCC, Decision 3/CP.25 (2019).

17/ UNFCCC and IUCN, *Gender and national climate planning: Gender integration in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions* (2021). Available at <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49860>.

Box 1. The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP)

ASAP is IFAD's flagship global programme for channelling climate- and environment-related finance to smallholder farmers. It was launched by IFAD in 2012 to make climate and environmental finance work for smallholder farmers and remains the only programme dedicated to addressing the climate change challenges faced by small-scale producers. The programme provided a new multi-year, multi-donor financing and co-financing window to scale up and integrate climate change adaptation across IFAD's portfolio. The ASAP approach involves no regrets and multiple benefits strategies that build on local knowledge of what is working and combine this with science. It co-finances projects with "catalytic" climate finance and benefits from the same rigorous monitoring and evaluation and quality control as IFAD's regular programme of loans and grants.

A second phase (ASAP2) was approved in 2017 and the Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholders Adaptation Programme (ASAP+) was launched in 2020. Each phase builds on the experience of ongoing ones, as well as portfolio-level assessments.

ASAP and gender

IFAD has emphasized gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) as critical to ASAP from the very beginning and integrated it into the results framework of ASAP1. For example, there is a target that women and girls amount to 50 per cent of target beneficiaries, and the programme promotes "gender-sensitive"¹⁸ and climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies.

2012–2020; (ii) to determine whether gender-responsive approaches and interventions have been successfully implemented; and (iii) to present examples of good practice and lessons learned in mainstreaming gender in ASAP. The ultimate aim is twofold: (i) to present findings and recommendations relevant to those engaged in ongoing projects as well as the ASAP+; and (ii) contribute to the state of knowledge of integrating GEWE in CCA.

Aim of paper and summary methodology

This paper has three specific objectives: (i) to present the results of an analysis of ASAP1 performance in promoting GEWE across a selection of its portfolio during the period

This paper is based on a review of 19 out of the 42 projects in ASAP1, four of which are presented as case studies. Summary findings for the remaining 15 projects are presented in Annex III. In addition, further details about the methodology of the review can be found in Annex I.

18/ This paper defines **gender sensitive** as recognizing different roles of women, men, boys and girls, inequalities and gender power dynamics and trying to mitigate negative impacts in programme/action design. **Gender responsive** is defined as including specific actions to try and reduce gender inequalities and their causes.



2



GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASAP¹

ASAP and gender equality and women's empowerment

IFAD has emphasized gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) as critical to the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) from the very beginning and worked to

ensure that these two mainstreaming priorities reinforce each other. It invested in gender equality expertise in consultation with IFAD's own gender specialists to inform the ASAP1 results framework (see Table 1 below).

TABLE 1. ASAP1 results management framework

ASAP RESULTS HIERARCHY	ASAP RESULTS AT GLOBAL PORTFOLIO LEVEL	PORTFOLIO RESULTS INDICATORS
Goal	Poor smallholder farmers are more resilient to climate change	1 No. of poor smallholder household members whose climate resilience has been increased
Purpose	Multiple-benefit adaptation approaches for poor smallholder farmers are scaled up	2 Leverage ratio of ASAP grants versus non-ASAP financing
		3 No. of tons of greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ e) avoided and/or sequestered
Outcome 1	Improved land management and "gender-sensitive" ¹⁹ climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies	4 No. of hectares of land managed under climate-resilient practices
Outcome 2	Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing	5 No. of households, production and processing facilities with increased water availability
Outcome 3	Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters	6 No. of individuals (including women) and community groups engaged in climate risk management, natural resource management or disaster risk reduction activities
Outcome 4	Rural infrastructure made climate resilient	7 US\$ value of new or existing rural infrastructure made climate resilient
Outcome 5	Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated	8 No. of international and country dialogues on climate issues where ASAP-supported projects or project partners make an active contribution

^{19/} This paper defines **gender sensitive** as recognizing different roles of women, men, boys and girls, inequalities and gender power dynamics and trying to mitigate negative impacts in programme/action design. **Gender responsive** is defined as including specific actions to try and reduce gender inequalities and their causes.

Gender-related provisions include:

- Women and girls are 50 per cent of ASAP target beneficiaries
- All people-based indicators are to be disaggregated by sex
- Promotion of gender-sensitive and climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies
- Increased human capacity, including that of women, to manage climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters.

In addition, ASAP-financed projects choose from corporate level sex-disaggregated indicators from its Results and Impact Management System, some of which are very relevant to tracking gender-sensitive climate change adaptation outcomes at output and outcome levels, for example:

- number of people provided with climate information services
- number of people accessing technologies that sequester carbon or reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- percentage of people/households reporting a significant reduction in the time spent for collecting water or fuel
- percentage of people/households reporting the adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices.

To achieve the goal of 50 per cent of all beneficiaries being women, training was carried out at the launch of the programme for staff and project teams on ASAP's gender dimensions and specifically how ASAP outcomes could interface with the priorities of IFAD's 2012 policy on GEWE. As the programme was rolled out, all ASAP-financed investments also benefitted from IFAD's project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process and technical support from design through implementation to completion.

In 2018, a gender assessment and learning review was carried out for a selection of projects.²⁰ The review included a number of observations:

- There was a strong emphasis on targets for women's participation in project activities and/or in leadership roles in producer groups and community committees. Although there was good progress in attaining these targets, a more nuanced understanding of what participation means and greater engagement with gender norms, roles and relations alongside more activities to engage men, leaders and key institutions are needed.
- Projects were at least aware of the different practical needs of women and men, and most activities were designed to be accessible to women in terms of their existing gender roles and prevailing norms and relations. However, the assessment called for more work to evaluate whether this increased access is indeed translating into increased impacts for women.
- There was limited focus on gender dynamics and how these shape women's and men's different vulnerabilities to climate change impacts and their different capacities to adapt to those impacts.

Subsequently, a mid-term review of ASAP1 in 2021²¹ found that ASAP projects vary in the extent to which they engage with gender norms, roles and relations and support gender equality and women's empowerment. As a result it recommended that these should be prioritized more consistently across the entire portfolio.

This review sets out, inter alia, to determine to what extent these observations were valid for the projects reviewed, and how far things have changed.

20/ IFAD, *IFAD's ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review: Final report* (2018).

21/ ITAD, *Mid-term review of IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme* (2020).



3



ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURE OF PAPER

Framework for analysis

This review was framed by the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (first phase) (ASAP1) results framework on the one hand and the three strategic objectives of IFAD's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) policy on the other (see Box 2).

This paper also presents a brief reflection of ASAP1's contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) gender priorities, based on the project reviews.

Structure of paper

The next section presents findings and recommendations by ASAP1 outcome and IFAD's GEWE policy strategic objective, which is preceded by key messages. The final section offers recommendations for the Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+). The case studies and country findings summaries on which this paper is based can be found in Annexes II and III respectively.

Box 2. IFAD Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2012) strategic objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Promote economic empowerment to enable rural women and men to participate in and benefit from profitable economic activities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Enable women and men to have equal voice and influence in rural institutions and organizations.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: To achieve a more equitable balance in workloads and in the sharing of economic and social benefits between women and men.

Producing vegetables in the Gambia

Jalima Cham, 29 years old, is a young yet very experienced farmer involved in the production of vegetables in the Gambia. She has attended a series of trainings in smallholder agriculture and is now sharing her expertise with 252 women farmers in the community garden of Pakalinding. Jalima is a facilitator of the local farmer field school, which is supported by IFAD. She teaches techniques such as crop watering, organic compost preparation and solar-powered system management.

“My role here is to help these women prepare to develop this garden and move things forward by themselves,” says Jalima.

Source: National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA), supported by ASAP in the Gambia.



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4



FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section opens with key messages based on both findings and recommendations, including those for the Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+) in the final section.

The findings of this review are presented by alignment with ASAP1 outcomes and the IFAD Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

(GEWE) policy strategic objectives. The recommendations focus on those presented at the project level, organized by operational actions to mainstream gender and address the link with climate change adaptation (CCA) in the targeting section. Recommendations at the ASAP+ programme level, based on ASAP1 experiences are presented in the final section, which also presents considerations for the way forward.

Key messages

1 ASAP1 appears to **be on track** to achieve gender targets for direct beneficiaries.



2 All projects integrate gender dimensions and **benefit women** in actions towards achieving ASAP1 outcomes.



3 All three strategic objectives of IFAD's gender equality and women's empowerment policy **are being supported**, in particular those concerned with women's economic empowerment and equal voice.



4 The link between gender and climate change adaptation dimensions could be **strengthened** and made **more consistent** across the entire ASAP1 portfolio.



5 ASAP1 programme-level gender commitments are likely to have resulted in generally **strong targeting and inclusion of women**, but more can be done to target young women and indigenous women, and to engage men.



Key messages unpacked

1. **Most projects set a target for women's participation as direct beneficiaries at or close to 50 per cent for ASAP1's goal-level indicator.**²² Some project targets were higher or lower, depending on context and previous achievements in GEWE by IFAD-supported projects. Many of these project targets have been achieved or are on track. Extrapolating these results, ASAP1 appears to be on track to achieve its goal-level gender target.
2. **All projects reviewed integrate gender dimensions and benefit women to some extent in contributing to ASAP1 outcomes,** although more work is needed on outcome 5 to document and disseminate good practices and lessons learned.
3. **Almost all projects reviewed contributed to all three strategic objectives of IFAD's GEWE policy.** Women's economic empowerment (strategic objective 1) was a strong theme, in line with the rest of IFAD's portfolio, with a high degree of synergy with ASAP1 outcomes, for example, climate-resilient productive infrastructure to increase women's incomes. Encouragingly, most projects made efforts to increase women's voice and decision-making (strategic objective 2) in community and farmer's organizations, as well as in the home and even at the policy level, and some projects do so in ways that bring CCA and gender equality together. More could be done to scale up labour-saving technologies to reduce women's time burden and drudgery, which are likely to have been increased as a result of climate change. Indeed, women's labour-saving technologies could be an important strand of a gender-transformative approach (GTA)²³ to enhance women's ability to engage in CCA and mitigation, especially if they attract men to share the work.
4. **ASAP projects vary in the extent to which they bring together gender and CCA dimensions, but the link could be stronger and more consistent across the portfolio.** The starting point is a gender analysis that integrates CCA, as well as a climate change assessment that integrates a gender lens; this is not yet the norm and even when done, can be superficial. There are good practices in selecting adaptation options that explicitly build on a participatory analysis with women as well as men (e.g. the Plurinational State of Bolivia), but this could be done more consistently across more projects. IFAD tools can help projects choose adaptation strategies that work for women,²⁴ and by overlaying IFAD GEWE policy strategic objectives with ASAP1 outcomes, proposed adaptation strategies can promote stronger synergy between these dimensions.
5. **Targeting and inclusion of women is generally strong, and ASAP1 programme-level gender commitments are likely to have made a difference. However, despite some good practices, more can be done to better target young women, indigenous women and to engage men.** Targets for women beneficiaries were mostly in place at the project level, as well as for some ASAP1 indicators, and in some projects for more than 50 per cent of direct beneficiaries (e.g. the Gambia). Nevertheless, there is scope for further clarity and greater ambition in setting targets for direct as well as indirect beneficiaries, and ASAP1 outcome indicators.²⁵ These should be informed by a gender and socio-economic analysis of gender norms and demographic data that is geared towards identifying adaptation options. While good practices are identified in targeting, for example, indigenous women and young women, as well as female heads of household, more nuanced targeting could be adopted in more projects. While not a focus of this review, all projects produced food security and nutrition benefits for women and girls through a combination of support for climate-resilient production, processing/marketing and behaviour change. Going forward, IFAD's refreshed targeting guidelines should help.

22/ Poor smallholder household members whose climate resilience has been increased.

23/ In IFAD, GTAs are programmes and interventions that create opportunities to: actively challenge the root causes of inequalities between women and men; promote positions of social and political influence for women in communities; and address power inequities between women and men. Source: IFAD, *Mainstreaming gender-transformative approaches at IFAD – Action plan 2019-2025* (2019).

24/ For example, IFAD's adaptation framework tool.

25/ Note that targets are distinct from disaggregating by sex, as they are a statement of intent.

6. **Many projects made concerted efforts to improve substantive equality between women and men, by introducing concrete measures to deliver on commitments and some form of GTA. These should be better documented, supported, scaled up and the links with CCA tightened.** IFAD's gender marker and its project supervision/ implementation support system are key institutional mechanisms to support project contributions to substantive gender equality; together, they support projects to ensure important checks that elements contributing to substantive equality are in place and that progress is maintained. Yet supervision mission reports tend to have limited inputs on gender, and more attention to ASAP's outcome 5 could help ASAP tell the story of its contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment.²⁶ Gender expertise at the project level can be hard to find and maintain, and some projects are turning to institutional partnerships to reduce the associated risks. Tackling this issue would reduce risks of the delayed implementation of gender action plans. Encouragingly, most projects include actions that aim to address underlying gender norms in order to advance gender equality. The most frequently adopted GTAs are: (i) improving women's land tenure security; (ii) improving women's meaningful leadership in community and farmer's organizations, through leadership and gender training; and (iii) in the home through the use of household methodologies. However, GTAs are not always implemented at scale, possibly due to a lack of financing and implementation capacity, and ASAP+ could consider financing the deepening of the three GTAs identified in ways that support gender and CCA and climate change mitigation goals.²⁷ This could include a particular emphasis on empowering women as agents of change in achieving ASAP1 outcomes.
7. **ASAP+ should continue the commitment to GEWE in ASAP.** This includes setting a target of at least 50 per cent female direct beneficiaries whose climate resilience will have been increased and expanding the target to other people-based ASAP+ indicators. It should also consider a GEWE-specific financing window to scale up and strengthen the CCA link of the GTAs that many projects are implementing, sometimes on a small scale, and with a focus on: (i) expanding women's tenure security; (ii) meaningful group leadership; (iii) transforming gender relations in the household; and (iv) labour-saving technologies and practices.

Findings

"In addressing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment in climate responses, the majority of earlier designs were more focused on establishing targets and quotas for women's participation in benefits. Recent designs are increasingly addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as gender norms and beliefs, income and asset ownership and access to credit."²⁸

Overall, this paper finds the same, although Mozambique and Uganda are early examples of projects that do address the root causes of gender equality.

Findings by ASAP1 outcome

Most gender actions appeared to make contributions to almost all ASAP1 outcomes,²⁹ although few appeared to contribute to outcome 5. Overall, there is a need to invest more in outcome 5 from the gender perspective. Furthermore, it is not always easy to disaggregate the extent to which benefits went to women or men. For example, the documents reviewed did not always disaggregate how many women or men were supported to adopt climate-smart agriculture (CSA) techniques (outcome 1), the

26/ This corroborates both the ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review (2018) and ASAP Mid-term Review (2021).

27/ This could be done in synergy with IFAD's Gender Transformative Mechanism in the Context of Climate Adaptation (<https://www.ifad.org/en/gender-transformative-mechanism>) and Global Gender Transformative Approaches initiative for Women's Land Rights' (https://www.ifad.org/en/gender_transformative_approaches).

28/ ITAD, *Mid-term review of IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme* (2020).

29/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

proportion of women or men benefitting from access to water for production (outcome 2), or from support in climate-related risk management, such as early warning or agroecological information systems (outcome 3), or indeed the extent to which women/girls and men/boys benefit from climate-resilient infrastructure, such as roads or productive infrastructure (outcome 4). In outcome 4 especially, project benefits from community infrastructures appear to centre around men's participation, as also noted in the Mid-term Review (MTR). Similarly, it was not clear to what extent women and men had been consulted on their specific priorities as potential users. With regard to outcome 1 specifically, fewer women accessed training and capacity development in a number of projects than did their male counterparts.

A good number of projects had set targets at or close to 50 per cent of beneficiaries being women for the ASAP1 indicator for outcome 3, but there is still scope to enhance this (see also the section on targeting below). This paper generally concurs with the MTR finding that the programme introduces numerous technologies that benefit women, reducing their workload, saving time, reducing health risks and establishing links between adaptation and nutrition. These include multifunctional boreholes, homegrown gardens, cooking stoves, low labour intense agricultural techniques and watershed management techniques using biological grass strips. However, the project documentation reviewed does not always make it clear whether women have been consulted on the technologies adopted or how they are gender-sensitive or the proportion of females to males that benefit from them.

Good practices

Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF): there is a dedicated budget line for women- and youth-led initiatives in natural resources management.

BHUTAN: female-headed households (FHHs) account for 42 per cent of households reporting the adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices, and 49 per cent of those trained on land management practices are women.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: women account for 54 per cent of the beneficiaries of land restoration support (e.g. shelterbelts and grasslands).

ETHIOPIA: women comprise 40 per cent of individuals engaged in natural resource management and climate risk management activities.

VIET NAM: women's leadership was promoted in groups that influenced the adoption of CCA technologies. For example, women leaders comprised approximately 40 per cent of common interest groups in the two provinces.

Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing

THE GAMBIA: year-round water supply for women (e.g. infrastructure for tidal schemes in freshwater ecologies and solar powered boreholes and water reticulation systems in vegetable gardens).

GHANA: project set target of 50 per cent women being involved in adaptive trials and demonstrations of modern conservation agriculture and water-efficient irrigation techniques.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: women benefit from 65 drinking water supply schemes.

SUDAN: 40 per cent of pastoralists reporting secure access and user rights to water were women, and a third of water management committees were women.

Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters

BANGLADESH: an early warning system for flash floods was based on feedback; village flood protection infrastructure was established.

EGYPT: target for 10,000 women to access climate information services, including an early warning system, to support their decision-making about production.

NICARAGUA: women comprised 27 per cent of those accessing agro-climatic/weather alert services and participating in CCA training.

ETHIOPIA: piloting a gender-responsive index-based drought insurance product for cereals farmers, based on separate focus groups for women and men.

RWANDA: arable farmers are adapting their post-harvest drying processes on a daily basis, which has reduced losses and aflatoxin development, as well as saved time for women, who lead the drying process and have previously had to adjust their work frequently in response to sporadic rainfall.³⁰

UGANDA: over 365,000 women and 335,000 men have accessed climate information services, including early warning systems and weather forecasts, largely through local radio and from extension workers.

Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient

BANGLADESH: women benefitted from road infrastructure made climate-resilient, including from employment generated by the construction and maintenance.

GHANA: women's processing groups were provided with climate-friendly *gari*³¹ processing facility.

THE GAMBIA: investments in (clean) infrastructure for rice and vegetable production largely benefited women and youth.

MOZAMBIQUE: women dominated in groups managing resilient infrastructure for horticulture.

NICARAGUA: women benefitted from small-scale infrastructure through investment plans and from water/post-harvest infrastructure.

NIGERIA: women benefitted from new/existing rural road infrastructure that was protected from climate events; they were engaged in infrastructure development, from needs identification to maintenance.

UGANDA: community road construction committees aim to ensure that communities are fully engaged in the design and construction process, and women make up 40 per cent of these committees to ensure they can influence the process and outcomes.

VIET NAM: the project had a criterion for women to comprise at least 40 per cent of village development boards, which managed the implementation of community infrastructure investment schemes. This gave women access to strategic fora and the possibility to shape the choice of community infrastructure to protect livelihoods.

Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated

BOLIVIA: supporting the desire of local communities to preserve their traditional knowledge of farming systems, and developing an inventory of practices that was blended with technology to find the best solutions for climate-related challenges.

EGYPT: highlighting the impact of climate change on women and their role in developing resilience through research and investments. Furthermore, holding dialogues at the community level on the subject. Case studies are also being prepared on women's participation in CSA.

NIGERIA: initial target of evidence-based policy advocacy of the economic and climate benefits of realizing women's potential (this was not mentioned in completion report).

Findings by IFAD GEWE policy strategic objectives

All three strategic objectives were supported by almost all the projects reviewed, although the CCA link was often implicit rather than explicit. **Economic empowerment** has been supported mainly through access to credit and other productive resources and inputs, fostering income-generating activities, value chain participation, employment and related capacity development. IFAD experience and the literature repeatedly highlight access to water as a key

30/ ITAD, *Mid-term review of IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme* (2020).

31/ A powdery flour made from cassava roots.

input as particularly relevant to women impacted by climate change, given their gender roles. While examples of improving access to potable water were found, it was not always clear to what extent women benefit from support for productive purposes; for example, irrigation schemes for cash crops. Fewer projects support savings schemes compared to the number facilitating credit, and yet savings could be an important CCA strategy to buffer risk. Only one project in Ethiopia appears to be supporting weather-related insurance products that target women as well as men. In Bolivia, there had been an initial plan to offer micro-insurance to smallholders, but this was not developed. Further challenges are identified in the section on targeting and targets below.

Women's **equal voice and decision-making** from the home to the community and even in policy engagement also emerges as a strong theme. ASAP-supported projects have a strong emphasis on targets for women's participation either in project activities or in leadership roles in producer groups and community committees or both.³² A good number of projects are implementing household methodologies to promote more equitable decision-making in the home (see section on GTAs below), although it was not clear from the documentation whether CCA was explicitly integrated. Encouragingly, some projects are supporting gender-responsive early warning and agro-climatic information services to allow women to make important decisions (Bangladesh and Nicaragua). A number of other projects also mention these services, but it is unclear to what extent women's specific needs have been taken into account.

The exacerbation of **women's time burden and drudgery** as a result of climate change impacts is also well documented, and while good practices were identified, there appears to be paradoxically less focus on this strategic objective. Yet offering women opportunities for income generation and decision-making as CCA measures also takes a toll on their time and labour, as evidenced in

the Viet Nam case study, so that attention to this strategic objective is even more critical in the context of climate change. The good practices cover labour-saving technologies and practices in farming and the home, such as access to ploughing services and clean cookstoves, as well as benefits from infrastructure, such as rural roads and processing equipment. However, it was not always clear to what extent women benefitted from access to irrigation in particular, yet this can significantly enhance women's time savings and productivity. Interestingly, in Uganda, all households supported with gender-responsive behavioural change methodologies³³ were also given clean cookstoves, reducing women's time burden and drudgery while increasing health benefits and physical safety.

With regard to **GTAs**,³⁴ around half of the projects reviewed have been working to tackle intra-household decision-making and promote more equitable workloads. At the community and group level, a good number of projects have been promoting women's meaningful participation and leadership of groups, especially water user, microfinance and production groups, by supporting leadership and technical training. In El Salvador, a women's roundtable is supported to position the needs of rural women and, interestingly, women pointed out that in order to participate, most of them had to "negotiate" or "rethink" childcare. This would seem to confirm the importance of household approaches to support this renegotiation in the home. Some projects are addressing gender stereotypes through extensive training (Nicaragua) while Bangladesh and Bhutan, for example, are promoting non-traditional livelihood options for women. Some projects (Malawi and Mozambique) also increase women's land tenure security, which is considered transformative as it addresses women's well-documented lack of access to this fundamental asset, along with the water, soil and biodiversity necessary for their livelihoods and wellbeing, with the benefit of enabling women to be change agents and incentivize their contribution to CCA and mitigation.

32/ ITAD, *Mid-term Review of IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme* (2020).

33/ Specifically, the Gender Action Learning System.

34/ In IFAD, GTAs are programmes and interventions that create opportunities to: actively challenge the root causes of inequalities between women and men; promote positions of social and political influence for women in communities; and address power inequities between women and men. Source: IFAD, *Mainstreaming Gender-transformative Approaches at IFAD – Action Plan 2019-2025* (2019).

Good practices

Strategic Objective 1: Promote economic empowerment to enable rural women and men to participate in and benefit from profitable economic activities.

BOLIVIA: the project financed adaptation actions which identified both men and women in a participatory process. Projects with more benefits for women were prioritized for financing, and specific budget lines supported issues identified by women, such as labour-saving technologies.

THE GAMBIA: women with kitchen gardens and in FOs represent more than 80 per cent of those trained in production practices and technologies. There has been a 205 per cent, 38 per cent and 120 per cent over-achievement of income increase targets for from rainfed lowland rice, irrigated tidal rice and vegetables respectively.

GHANA: women account for 40 per cent of farmers' organizations, which are conduits for technical support and linked to village savings and loans associations, which are based on a gender-responsive model from CARE International. Women comprise 49 per cent of those trained in production practices and technologies.

MOLDOVA: matching grants for women's businesses for innovation and adaptation technologies to increase and diversify production, processing and income-generating activities are provided.

MOZAMBIQUE: women dominated two out of three value chains (cassava and horticulture). They were chosen in order to ensure women's engagement as women are already active in these areas, and these value chains have low entry thresholds.

NICARAGUA: 25 out of 105 investment plans for value addition in climate-resilient cocoa and coffee chains were dedicated to women and youth. The criterion of gender equity was added in evaluating other investment plans.

NIGERIA: all savings and credit groups had women in leadership positions.

Strategic Objective 2: Enable women and men to have equal voice and influence in rural institutions and organizations.

BANGLADESH: women are leaders in water user groups; the project is developing a gender-responsive pro-poor adaptation pathways framework for the Haor region.

BHUTAN: women account for 56 per cent of those provided with climate information services.

EL SALVADOR: 500 representatives of organizations for women (50 per cent), youth and Indigenous Peoples are to be trained in public policy engagement; regional fora for women and Indigenous Peoples are being established.

ETHIOPIA: women comprise 40 per cent of financial literacy training so far, and 45 per cent of rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages.

KYRGYZSTAN: climate risk mitigation pasture and animal health management plans incorporated adaptation needs and priorities of women.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: participatory local adaptation investment plans ensure gender-equal access to programme resources that address the vulnerabilities and adaptation needs of all ethnic groups.

MALAWI: communication strategies to share climate information, including among women, were circulated through farmer field schools and water user associations. An increase in women's participation and ability to make decisions regarding water use was reported.

MOZAMBIQUE: women comprised 49 per cent of beneficiaries whose ownership/user rights over natural resources were registered in national cadastres and/or geographic information management systems. Technical support has been provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Gender Strategy.

NIGERIA: 30 per cent of the target for marketing groups with women in leadership positions has been achieved, but just 4 per cent of producer and enterprise groups had women in leadership positions. There was an initial target of evidence-

based policy advocacy of the economic and climate benefits of realizing women's potential.

VIET NAM: women were consulted on their needs while integrating climate dimensions into sub-national policy.

Strategic Objective 3: To achieve a more equitable balance in workloads and in the sharing of economic and social benefits between women and men.

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA: the reduction of women's workloads was identified as a priority during stakeholder consultations; with this aim, the project introduced various initiatives, such as childcare and a *concurso*³⁵ theme in technologies to reduce women's domestic workloads. The project was found to have supported women's workload reduction through initiatives to manage natural resources, especially water.

ETHIOPIA: special support was given to over 20,000 FHHs with energy-saving cookstoves and solar lanterns, reducing time required to fetch fuel.

KYRGYZSTAN: milk collection centres enabled women to save between four and five hours a day.

MALAWI: improved cookstoves led to a reduction of drudgery for women and girls.

PARAGUAY: a day-care centre for children and project activities will be organized, at times suitable for women, and labour-saving technologies eligible for inclusion in investment plans financed by the project.

SUDAN: a sub-component of the natural resource management component was dedicated to the development of domestic water supply, thereby impacting on women's workload and drudgery; the target of 30 minutes a day per household to fetch water was achieved.

UGANDA: 10,000 vulnerable households have been given clean cookstoves, with field evidence indicating that women spend less time collecting firewood and cooking.

VARIOUS COUNTRIES: many projects have been implementing household-based behavioural

change methodologies to promote more equitable workloads.

GTAs

BHUTAN: women leaders have been fostered in rural producers' organizations through leadership training to challenge gender norms (e.g. video of Bhutan's first female community-based artificial insemination technician produced and widely circulated to dispel gender stereotypes).

MOZAMBIQUE: women comprised 49 per cent of beneficiaries whose ownership/user rights over natural resources were registered in national cadastres and/or geographic information management systems.

NICARAGUA: extensive gender training to address gender stereotypes has been given.

NIGERIA: gender-responsive behavioural change methodology was implemented to promote gender-sensitive value chains with a climate change lens.

Findings by operational actions

Gender analysis

All projects had carried out gender analysis, but few had specifically analysed climate change impacts on women/men or boys/girls or referred to relevant national policy provisions, such as gender provisions in NDCs or gender and climate change action plans. It was not always clear to what extent gender analysis had been based on a participatory analysis of potential target groups. Good examples were identified, however, and in some cases, these were built on climate-informed participatory consultations with women as well as desk research. Free, prior and informed consent processes also offer valuable opportunities to better understand the priorities of indigenous women, provided special efforts are made to hear from them.

Some examples are given of cases in which gender analysis with a climate lens clearly informed project design. Very few projects had integrated gender dimensions into climate change analyses, which were more technical and "gender blind" in nature. For example, while some projects included an analysis of climate change impacts

35/ Competition to obtain project financing.

on crops or value chains, they did not extrapolate to those the analysis was likely to affect and how, and what could constitute a viable adaptation strategy for women/men.

Good practices

BANGLADESH: in depth analysis was carried out on the distinct impacts of climate shocks on women, elderly and youth.

BHUTAN: reference to climate change and participatory analysis includes women's needs for climate-smart villages, which informed project design.

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA: a gender-sensitive methodology developed by CARE Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis, was used during stakeholder consultations to understand the vulnerabilities, capacities and needs of men, women and youth in target communities; the outcomes informed project design.

GHANA: there is a focus on the importance of understanding differentiated CCA vulnerabilities for women and youth.

NIGERIA: gender analysis notes that climate change impacts will be particularly severe for rural youth and women due to women's limited access to resources, fewer opportunities for education and training, and limited decision-making power in society and the home. Women were separately consulted in the participatory climate change vulnerability mapping process. Gender issues were integrated into analysis of other technical areas at design.

VIET NAM: project design provided for sub-national development plans to be informed by community-based adaptation and community-based disaster risk management planning, which were to include gender and power analyses. This is important, as "community based" does not necessarily mean gender responsive, and policy support that does not build on gender analysis risks making provisions that do not take into account women's and men's different roles, vulnerabilities, capacities and priorities.

Gender action plans

All projects reviewed had a gender strategy or action plan, although many were not included in project design documentation and developed after the project had started, which poses a risk of gender actions starting late and not gaining traction. One country only had a gender strategy for one component at the outset. Other projects have a broader social inclusion plan that also includes youth and Indigenous Peoples, which can be a good way to capture these intersectionalities. This review did not cover separate gender action plans but in general at IFAD, there is considerable variation in their format and approach across the portfolio, as well as in the quality. Only one good practice is offered in this section, but a separate review would be a useful exercise.

Good practice

BHUTAN: this includes a preliminary gender analysis, which notes: "The Social Inclusion Fund (SIF) under the programme should target such sections of the society ... This would entail the identification and assessment of vulnerable households for targeting under support to climate-resilient agriculture production. Here again, since women often make majority of the consumption decisions for the households, they should play a major role in confronting climate change and therefore due consideration to ensure vulnerable women who are socially excluded are provided (for in) this incentive need to be taken into account."

Based on this, the plan includes a strategy for gender-responsive and socially inclusive targeted interventions with corresponding actions that together form a viable CCA package, i.e.:

- Identification and assessment of vulnerable households for targeting under support to climate-resilient agricultural production
- Provision of production inputs, trainings on climate smart-technologies and other targeted interventions to enhance community resilience to climate change
- Facilitate access to existing/new farmers' groups and cooperatives
- Facilitate formation of and support to women's groups.³⁶

36/ IFAD and Kingdom of Bhutan. 2016. *Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion (GMSI) Strategy*. Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods Enhancement Programme. Available at https://www.carlep.gov.bt/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/GM-Strategy_Final-1.pdf

Targeting

All the projects reviewed specifically targeted women, and almost all have set targets for the proportion of female direct beneficiaries; this is distinct from disaggregating by sex as a target is a clear statement of intent. Most projects set a target at or close to 50 per cent for poor smallholder household members whose climate resilience has been increased (ASAP1 goal-level indicator); some targets were higher or lower, depending on context and most likely previous achievements in GEWE by IFAD-supported projects. Many of these project targets have been achieved or are on track (see the case studies below). Extrapolating these results, ASAP+ appears to be on track to achieve the ASAP1 goal-level gender target. The likelihood of attaining the target will clearly be enhanced by stepping up efforts in ongoing projects. While it is important to go beyond targets and consider qualitative aspects in a complex process such as empowerment, this paper proposes that scale matters and that a critical mass of climate-resilient rural women is critical to protect global food security and nutrition.

Not all countries had selected the optional indicator under ASAP1 outcome 3: Number of individuals (including women) and community groups engaged in climate risk management, natural resource management or disaster risk reduction activities, but of those that had, most had also set targets at or close to 50 per cent for females or female group members and a good number were on track (e.g. Bhutan) or had achieved it (e.g. Mozambique). There is time and scope to prioritize this, including disaggregating female group members for projects that have selected this indicator.

There could be more differentiation between women in different circumstances, and some targeting strategies risk leaving women behind by not taking into account women's specific situations, gender norms and barriers. Most projects reviewed do not clearly link targeting or gender strategies with CCA, and while all projects are contributing to women's CCA, more work is needed to ensure that existing gender gaps in vulnerabilities are not exacerbated, and more can

be done to engage women as change agents as well as beneficiaries.

Some projects purportedly targeted women especially, but the actual proportion targeted was sometimes less than 50 per cent. Many projects (but not all) also specifically targeted FHHs, but a clear definition was often not found, neither was it always clear whether the proportion targeted was aligned with local demographics. There are likely to be many more *de facto* FHHs than *de jure*, with many women effectively having to manage households for most of the year due to out-migration or abandonment without legal proof of their status. Projects could significantly increase their outreach to this group by adopting a definition, such as women whose husband/adult male family member is absent for eight months or more.

As identified in the ASAP1 MTR, in many projects, there appears to be little differentiation in targeting between women in male-headed or dual-headed households; in many contexts the majority were young women and indigenous women. This review corroborates the MTR and ASAP1 gender assessment and learning review finding that consideration of GEWE as it intersects with other aspects, such as age or ethnicity, needs to be developed further in more projects as climate change impacts them differently. Relatively few projects engage with men to increase GEWE, yet the importance of this is well established. Notable exceptions are all projects implementing household-level behavioural change methodologies; indeed GTAs are characterized by their targeting of men as well as women.

In terms of targeting strategies, the main observation is that most projects reviewed do not clearly link gender or targeting strategies with CCA; fewer respond to issues identified in a preceding gender analysis of climate-related vulnerabilities and capacities. This finding confirms those of the ASAP gender assessment and MTR. Having said this, whether these links are made explicitly or not in project documentation, the projects reviewed are contributing to building the adaptive capacities³⁷ of women, as well as men, to varying

37/ In relation to climate change impacts, this refers to the ability of a system to adjust to climate change in order to moderate potential damages, take advantage of opportunities or to cope with the consequences. Source: IPCC. 2007. AR4.

extents and in different ways. As noted in the MTR, the provision of skills, such as literacy, business management and organizational development, to women as well as men is building absorptive capacity and helping to reduce underlying gender gaps that often make poor rural women more vulnerable than men.

Some challenges to the effective targeting identified in the ASAP1 MTR, such as prohibitive costs and eligibility criteria, are likely to impact disproportionately on poor rural women compared to men unless targeted measures are in place to tackle the specific constraints. The ASAP1 MTR example of Kenya, where it was reported that project staff and farmers in certain areas travel long distances to provide or access programme services,³⁸ may effectively render project services inaccessible to women, especially given that cultural norms restrict women's mobility in many countries in which IFAD operates. Even if this travel is socially acceptable for women, they may not have the funds to attend or wish to risk their physical safety in undertaking such travel. Similarly, IFAD's requirements for participant contributions to any intervention can inhibit the inclusion of poor rural women in particular, given their lesser access to/control over assets and finance compared to that of men. Even contribution in kind may not be feasible if women's work burdens are already exacerbated due to climate change impacts. Furthermore, complex application procedures for grants or other project benefits can be even more prohibitive to women in many contexts. In Moldova a supervision report recommends that a service provider is contracted to identify and support smallholder men and women farmers in the application process, and while this is positive, care is also needed in the ASAP1 portfolio to ensure that procedures are genuinely accessible to poor women and men.³⁹ Moreover, any unintended bias towards group leaders in fund allocation risks not only allowing elite capture, but also effectively excluding women as they tend to occupy such roles less frequently than men.

Other potential targeting challenges have been outlined in the section on findings by ASAP outcome, such as the extent to which climate

services are targeting women and designed according to their needs and priorities, i.e. how gender-responsive they are. Despite these challenges, a number of effective targeting strategies were identified, which support women's equal access to CCA regardless of whether this is spelled out in project documents. Further good practices can be found in the section on findings by IFAD GEWE policy strategic objectives. The good practices below do not capture the full range of interventions in projects and it is recommended to consult the case studies/summaries for more information.

Good practices

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA: the project targets indigenous women and young indigenous women, and its participatory natural resource management mapping and community-led concursos effectively targeted women for financing through project-imposed quotas and relevant themes such as labour-saving technologies. The quota was important as a community-driven approach is not necessarily inclusive of women. Giving indigenous women control of finances helped to reduce gaps in their absorptive capacity compared to that of men and may have positioned them better to apply to other financing initiatives.

EL SALVADOR: as part of the free, prior and informed consent process, consultations with Indigenous Peoples' institutions were organized in order to shape the design of the project according to their characteristics, interests and needs. Special efforts were made to ensure the presence of women and youth in these consultations, including targeted meetings where necessary. This is an example of how free, prior and informed consent can be an important mechanism for mobilizing women as well as men as actors in interventions that affect them. Among other measures, a target of 40 per cent women to be trained in natural resource management activities and climate risk management was established, and there is provision for women to sit on the approval committee of business plans to be financed as well as for policy engagement in support of rural women.

38/ The MTR notes that similar considerations are mentioned in Sudan and Egypt.

39/ ITAD, *Mid-term review of IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme* (2020).

THE GAMBIA: the project targeted women as major actors in rice production, which is threatened by a combination of climate change impacts. Separate women's sessions were organized when soliciting opinions and identifying needs, and women were consulted directly in planning and implementation. A year-round water supply for women was prioritized, which contrasts with a number of projects in which direct benefits to women are unclear. A national women producers apex cooperative was formed and strengthened to influence policy dialogue, which could play an important role in advocacy and accessing climate finance.

MOZAMBIQUE: two of the value chains were chosen on the basis of climate change vulnerability and importance to food security, but also because of women's engagement in them. Supporting their technical capacities, providing climate-resilient infrastructure and improving their tenure security proved to be successful strategies to boost their resilience in the face of climate change and other stresses.

PARAGUAY: a target of 50 per cent rural facilitators trained in delivering climate information services to be women being set is important to help ensure overall targets for women are met. Women's effective participation is also supported by a focus on equitable household workloads, the provision of day-care centres for children and a commitment to organizing activities at times suitable for women. Labour-reducing technologies are eligible for inclusion in investment plans to be financed by the project. Over 20 per cent of rural organizations developing business plans are to be women only. While women's greater and meaningful participation in mixed-sex initiatives is to be encouraged, ringfencing financing in this way can also be a useful strategy to target women who risk exclusion, especially if the budget cannot be reallocated.

SUDAN: a multi-pronged strategy targeted very poor agro-pastoralist women with measures because of a clear objective to develop the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in environmentally sound, social- and

gender-equitable development. Climate-resilient community village plans were developed in a participatory way that included women, and women constituted on average 64 per cent of beneficiaries in different training programmes, including in natural resource management and developing local adaptation plans for action. A natural resources governance framework catalysed cooperation and led to formal recognition of women's rights to access land and water.

UGANDA: the GTA of a household mentoring approach targets both women and men as well as other family members. While the documents did not allow for a full understanding of the extent to which CCA had been integrated, the methodology is flexible and could accommodate it, thereby providing an innovative mechanism for gender-responsive household CCA strategies. For example, there is evidence that women and men prioritize different assets for sale in response to different types of shocks⁴⁰ and household methodologies could promote negotiation to promote more equitable household adaptation responses.

Monitoring and evaluation

ASAP-financed projects are subject to IFAD's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and a process of implementation support through supervision missions, MTRs and completion reports. Some are also subject to impact assessments to evaluate whether observed changes in outcomes among project target groups can be attributed to development projects.⁴¹ IFAD has been using a gender marker system from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 6 (highly satisfactory) with guiding questions to reduce subjectivity and ensure quality standards.

Overall, it was found that this system contributes to a supportive enabling institutional environment for ASAP-financed projects. While supervision mission reports tend to have limited inputs on gender, and there is variation in the style, depth and quality of reporting, the system allows for timely corrective action to be taken. For example, a number of supervision reports highlighted a lack

40/ A.R. Quisumbing, N. Kumar and J.A. Behrman, *Do shocks affect men's and women's assets differently? Evidence from Bangladesh and Uganda* (2017).

41/ See <https://www.ifad.org/en/impact-assessment>.

of progress on recruiting gender specialists or requested scrutiny of the extent to which quotas had been met. Nevertheless, more attention to ASAP's outcome 5 could help ASAP tell the story of its contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment.⁴² Encouragingly, most supervision reports had a gender specialist. One project's MTR mission did not appear to have a gender specialist, and the report contained minimal analysis of gender dimensions.

At the project level, the main challenge encountered was a lack of sex-disaggregated data in project logical frameworks and in the sections for specific technical areas. This is despite an IFAD requirement for all people-based data to be disaggregated by sex and, more recently, by age. For example, the reports under the section on climate change might report on the number of people trained, but not give a figure disaggregated by sex (or age). Logical frameworks in supervision missions also frequently had a format that clearly provides for disaggregation, however in a number of cases this data was missing. Lack of sex-disaggregated data clearly presents challenges for monitoring progress, and more work is needed to ensure that M&E functions are aware of requirements and guidelines. In particular, the data for the number of community groups engaged in climate risk management, natural resource management or disaster risk reduction activities was generally not disaggregated by women's groups or female group members. This review did not assess the presence or substance of gender-specific qualitative surveys. Another consideration is to what extent projects define gender sensitive in indicators using this phrase (e.g. gender-sensitive technologies); this review did not find such definitions, although it is possible that they were adopted.

Good practices

UGANDA: the project is subject to an IFAD impact assessment and uses the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) for the baseline, mid-term and final evaluations. It is important for the Programme for the Restoration of Livelihoods in Northern Uganda (PRELNOR), as well providing a learning opportunity for other ASAP-supported projects, to reflect on the

experience of implementing this M&E plan from an integrated climate and gender perspective.

VIET NAM: the project results management framework included an output for the participatory development of gender-sensitive models for farmers and aquaculturists to formally engage in climate-resilient, profitable production. Including such an output is a positive measure and projects should define what gender sensitive means in specific contexts.

Gender expertise and gender training

All projects reviewed made some provision for gender expertise, whether a gender focal point (not necessarily a gender expert), a gender and social inclusion specialist or a contractual/partnership arrangement. This last appeared to work well, and partnerships were with international agencies as well as local government agencies, both of which appear to have helped manage the risk of turnover and promote more sustainable and extensive local capacity. The ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review (2018) notes the differences in progress on gender mainstreaming between ASAP-supported projects that do and those that do not have a full-time gender focal point or specialist. This review did not review terms of reference of project staff, in order to check for a reference to climate change in the terms of reference of gender specialists, or of gender in the terms of reference of climate specialists. There was frequently a general commitment to integrate gender into terms of reference of all project staff, although this review did not assess whether this had been done or kept up during implementation.

A number of countries report difficulty recruiting and/or retaining the position of gender specialist, with resulting gaps and challenges in implementation of gender plans. This would seem to point to a low prioritization of gender in projects overall, as noted in the ASAP1 MTR. If a gender action plan has not been developed at design, the implementation risk with regard to gender increases still further. It is useful to note that IFAD's gender marker requires a gender specialist to qualify for a "moderately satisfactory" (or 4) rating at design and during implementation.

42/ This corroborates both the ASAP Gender Assessment & Learning Review (2018) and ASAP MTR (2020).

One project, for example, has dealt with the absence of a gender specialist by assigning the role to another project specialist. Given that the issue of recruitment and retainment of gender specialists seems a widespread challenge, one risk mitigation measure could be to ensure attention to gender or experience of working on gender dimensions in the terms of reference of all project staff and service providers.

The status and working conditions of gender specialists may also be an underlying challenge; experience beyond ASAP indicates that they can be more junior positions with lower pay and low status in the project team, who have little power or budget control with which to get things done or influence decisions. Frequent travel to the field and working with a predominantly male team, as in many IFAD projects, may also pose a challenge to women in particular.

All projects make at least some provision to gender training. This review did not include gender training plans or curricula to assess the extent to which CCA has been integrated; no examples were found in the documents reviewed, although this may have happened in practice.

Good practices

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA: the project provided for human resources to deliver on commitments. Dedicated staff were contracted to deliver on commitments, including local gender promoters and a national expert to support project local operating units. All capacity development involved women trainers to overcome social barriers for women participants, which prohibited them from mixing with unknown men. While the expected cascade effects in terms of capacity development of local government representatives in gender equality were not observed on a 2018 supervision mission, the project's efforts to build local institutional capacities provide an example of good practice. A partnership with UN Women can also be considered a good practice as this kind of arrangement mobilizes gender expertise and reduces the risks associated with gender experts being recruited late or resigning. Access to more than one expert through an institutional approach is also likely to be less risky and more flexible

in terms of implementation. The arrangement promotes sustainability through leaving behind capacities for future potential investments.

GHANA: a partnership with the government's Women in Agriculture Directorate at district level builds capacities of farmer organizations in gender in agriculture and CSA. It is not clear whether the two are linked.

KYRGYZSTAN: a non-governmental organization implementation partner for community mobilization had a strong focus on and expertise in gender.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: the Lao Women's Union was supported to build capacities to pilot the Gender Action Learning System, a gender-responsive behavioural change methodology and other household approaches.

SUDAN: an entire sub-component is dedicated to gender sensitization and another to training of local and state staff on community development and gender.

VIET NAM: the Women's Union, with its long experience in supporting such groups, proved to be an important partner in moving from individual credit to sustainable financial institutions that explicitly target women.

Recommendations, conclusions and the way forward

Recommendations

These recommendations are presented by operational actions to make them as "actionable" as possible.

Gender analysis

Firstly, carry out gender analysis at design stage, in time to inform the project design and targeting strategy. Integrate CCA into the gender analysis to identify gender differences, and gaps in vulnerabilities to climate change and capacities in adaptation, ideally moving beyond a recognition of women's/girls' exacerbated vulnerabilities to an analysis of adaptation options within the project area and focus. This should draw on,

inter alia: (i) participatory analysis with women as well as men⁴³; (ii) a desk review of national gender and CCA priorities in policy (e.g. in Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] and gender and climate change action plans); and (iii) a review of gender and CCA actions by other actors. An example of a project that conducted a participatory gender-responsive climate change vulnerability study is given in the Plurinational State of Bolivia case study. The CCA priorities of women and men were then eligible for funding to implement them. See above for other examples in the findings by operational action/gender analysis. Furthermore, use IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) to identify potential risks of excluding women and girls in CCA strategies and undermining their substantive equality by ignoring gender norms. Guidance is also available in the Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook digital platform hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).⁴⁴

Secondly, and importantly, include gender dimensions in climate vulnerability analyses, moving beyond a purely technical analysis (e.g. based on climate models) to one that goes on to analyse the differentiated implications in the project context for women, men, youth, including Indigenous Peoples as well as other vulnerable rural people as appropriate. For example, if rising temperatures are making milk storage and safety difficult and that is a role often taken on by women, adaptation strategies could include support for clean energy cooling and storage technologies.

Gender action plans

Develop a draft Gender Action Plan (GAP) at design stage to address CCA issues identified in gender analysis, possibly organized by project components and specifying concrete actions and resource allocations in an adaptation pathway to achieve the chosen ASAP+ outcome(s). A

standard format that allows for adaptation by projects could be helpful.

Targeting

1. Set a target (as distinct from simply disaggregating by sex) for female direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries and for people-based ASAP+ indicators disaggregated further by age, and ethnicity where relevant; this should include targets for FHHs where the unit of measurement is the household.
2. Include targeting strategies that make the most of women's and men's agency in adapting to climate change, rather than focus only on their vulnerabilities and as beneficiaries. A focus on the optional indicator under ASAP1 outcome 3⁴⁵ may be considered as a proxy indication of women's agency in CCA as distinct from being beneficiaries, provided it is disaggregated by sex.
3. Target men to make women's empowerment measures acceptable.
4. Make the CCA approach explicit and spell out how women and girls/men and boys will benefit equitably and substantively. Use IFAD's SECAP to refine the analysis and deepen the understanding of possible risks/mitigation actions to women's substantive engagement in proposed targeting strategies. These could arise from trade-offs. For example, the introduction of improved seed could result in increased costs and need for technical knowledge that could impact more negatively on women compared to men in many contexts, but whose risk is potentially mitigated to acceptable levels by supporting capacity development and offset by potential profits. Similarly, crop rotation and inter-cropping can be labour-intensive, thereby impacting women disproportionately and therefore requiring labour-saving technologies that target women.

43/ Tools, such as the CARE Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis Handbook available at: <https://careclimatechange.org/cvca/>.

44/ Data and information requirements for gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture and key elements of a gender-sensitive indicator framework, in Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook. Available at <https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/enabling-frameworks/module-c6-gender/c6-overview/en/>.

45/ Number of individuals (including women) and community groups engaged in climate risk management, natural resource management or disaster risk reduction activities.

5. Use dedicated IFAD guidance, such as its Gender and Climate Change Adaptation. How to do Note.⁴⁶
6. Prioritize geographical targeting that coincides with where rural women are most vulnerable and there is most overlap with gains in protecting food security and nutrition and other co-benefits, drawing on methodologies such as those on climate-gender-agriculture hot-spots at the sub-national level developed by CGIAR's Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) platform.⁴⁷
7. For the most vulnerable, implement direct targeting rather than self-targeting approaches.
8. In selecting possible adaptation options, use methodologies, such as IFAD's Adaptation Framework Tool⁴⁸ to choose between possible strategies; one of the criteria is accessibility for project beneficiaries and the guidance on scoring possible adaptation options clarifies that the adaptation option should be affordable and not exacerbate existing inequalities (e.g. an insurance product that is only accessible to heads of the household, who may be predominately men). The highest score is given to adaptation options that are accessible to project beneficiaries and specifically benefits women or other marginalized groups.
9. Considerations for specific ASAP+ outcomes are given below, and examples of how they intersect with IFAD's GEWE policy are given in table 2:
 - a. ASAP+ outcome 1: make explicit which technologies and practices are gender sensitive, and how; for example, labour-saving devices for so-called women's crops or livestock. The Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook also has useful guidance on potential gender considerations of various CSA practices.⁴⁹
 - b. ASAP+ outcome 2: specify how women and men will benefit equitably from water access for productive purposes given their specific priorities and how the project will address identified gender gaps.
 - c. ASAP+ outcome 3: ensure that climate services and early warning systems take into account women's and men's different priorities (e.g. specific crops) and how they will access this information (e.g. women's access to mobile internet, literacy, frequency etc.) and any specific barriers women may face in accessing these services, drawing on emerging guidance in this.⁵⁰ Aim for equal access.
 - d. ASAP+ outcome 4: prioritize climate-resilient infrastructure that equitably serves both men and women. Conduct rapid gender analysis to quantify expected benefits of infrastructure to male and female beneficiaries, for example, processing facilities may benefit more men or women, depending on the product, or determining whether run-off water is channelled equitably to women or men. Engage with women as well as men to ensure their priorities are met, such as ensuring women's presence on related committees.
 - e. ASAP+ outcome 5: provide for at least one knowledge product on gender and climate change and/or contribute to regional or external initiatives. Include gender dimensions if engaging in climate-related policy support.

46/ IFAD, *Gender and climate change adaptation. Design of gender transformative smallholder agriculture adaptation programmes. How to do Note* (2018). Available at: <https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40215365/How+to+do+-+Design+of+gender+transformative+smallholder+agriculture+adaptation.pdf/c5f3c4ff-26a3-4ac6-a3ed-3b8dfc93af56?t=1520435542000>.

47/ Available at: https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/119602/gender_wp5.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y.

48/ This framework uses a multi-criterion analysis system to allow project design teams to consider factors such as cost-benefit, climate-risk relevance, farmer capacities, mitigation co-benefits, and biodiversity support. Its selection of the best adaptation measures is informed by analysis of climate change risks and impacts. Available at: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/publication/adaptation-framework-tool>.

49/ Gender in Climate- Smart Agriculture. Module 18 for the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook. Available at <https://www.fao.org/3/i5546e/i5546e.pdf>.

50/ For example, see P. Dorward, G. Clarkson and R. Stern, *Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA): Field Manual* (2015).

TABLE 2. Examples of gender/CCA considerations by ASAP+ outcome and IFAD GEWE policy strategic objective

	IFAD GEWE POLICY SO1: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	IFAD GEWE POLICY SO2: VOICE AND DECISION-MAKING	IFAD GEWE POLICY SO3: EQUITABLE WORKLOADS AND BENEFITS
ASAP+ outcome 1	<p>Support weather-related insurance products that target women</p> <p>Expand opportunities for women in payment for ecosystems services and restorative works</p> <p>Eligibility criteria and application procedures for climate finance effectively accessible to women as well as men</p>	<p>Quotas and capacity development for women as members and leaders in NRM groups, FOs, as well as well as for men</p>	<p>Clean technologies that reduce environmental pressure, reduce women's labour and support nutrition</p> <p>Use labour-saving technologies as a GTA to narrow gender gaps in CCA</p>
	<p>GTAs:</p> <p>Women's tenure security</p> <p>Household methodologies that explicitly support CCA</p> <p>Women's group leadership and meaningful participation</p> <p>Labour-saving technologies</p>		
ASAP+ outcome 2	<p>Women's equitable access to irrigation and target for associated earnings</p> <p>Eligibility criteria and application procedures for climate finance effectively accessible to women as well as men</p>	<p>Quotas and capacity development for women as members and leaders in relevant groups, as well as well as for men</p>	<p>Women's equitable access to irrigation and time savings target</p>
	<p>GTAs:</p> <p>Women's tenure security</p> <p>Gender-responsive behavioural change methodologies that explicitly support CCA</p> <p>Women's group leadership and meaningful participation</p>		
ASAP+ outcome 3	<p>Weather-related insurance products, agro-climatic information and early warning systems that respond to women's needs</p>		
	<p>GTAs:</p> <p>Women's tenure security</p> <p>Household methodologies that explicitly support CCA</p> <p>Women's group leadership and meaningful participation</p> <p>Labour-saving technologies</p> <p>Eligibility criteria and application procedures for climate finance effectively accessible to women as well as men</p>		
ASAP+ outcome 4	<p>Equitable income options from roads, processing and other infrastructure</p> <p>Equitable employment for equal pay opportunities in construction/maintenance</p>	<p>Quotas and capacity development for women as members and leaders in relevant groups, as well as well as for men</p>	<p>Equitable access to infrastructure, which prioritizes reducing women's work burdens</p>
	<p>GTAs:</p> <p>Women's tenure security</p> <p>Household methodologies that explicitly support CCA</p> <p>Women's group leadership and meaningful participation</p> <p>Labour-saving technologies</p>		
ASAP+ outcome 5	<p>Document and disseminate success stories of large-scale successful engagement of women as well as men in natural resource management/CSA, also on a regional basis</p>	<p>Engage in policy support from community to national levels and promote gender and CCA in climate and sectoral policy</p> <p>Develop women's capacities in farmer organizations etc. to advocate for their CCA needs</p>	<p>Advocacy to reduce women's increase in workload as a result of climate change impacts</p>

Gender expertise

Provide for a full-time gender specialist, possibly combined with other social inclusion dimensions, and include CCA in the terms of reference. Ensure the post is filled as soon as possible as well as adequate pay, status and enabling working conditions. Consider a partnership for implementation. Integrate gender into terms of reference of all project staff.

Monitoring and evaluation

1. Set a minimum target for female direct beneficiaries as well as for all people-based indicators, and particularly for a number of individuals (including women) and community groups engaged in climate risk management, environmental and natural resource management or disaster risk reduction activities, which should also disaggregate group members by sex. Disaggregate by FHHs.
2. Encourage fuller coverage of gender in project supervision, mid-term reviews and completion reports, and ensure the participation of a gender specialist on missions, ideally with experience of working in CCA.

Conclusions

In conclusion, this paper confirms a positive trend but with variations between projects with regard to integrating gender and CCA considerations in ASAP1 projects, in line with the ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review (2018) and MTR (2021). However, it finds that there is more to do with respect to including women as well as men and considering the effects of climate change on their work in agriculture and rural areas. There are many good examples of projects providing women with relevant and increased access to project benefits. This is due in part to the strong emphasis on GEWE when ASAP was

designed, including IFAD investment in gender and climate expertise at the programme level as well as a capacity development programme with a strong gender focus for those engaged in potential ASAP-financed projects. Ten years on, there is a need for a capacity development refresher on gender and CCA that also takes into account a changed world and the need for a more comprehensive risk management approach and broad-based resilience to shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and other discontinuities. Importantly, the nexus of gender and climate change needs to be strengthened; gender needs to be reflected in climate assessments and vice versa, and project activities should be grounded on an analysis of the climate-gender nexus. Project design teams therefore need to more systematically conduct a gender assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities with regard to climate change (what, why, how, when).

With IFAD's potential to develop a robust evidence base of what works for women and what does not at scale, IFAD should aim high and make a significant contribution to the state of knowledge on gender equality, women's empowerment and CCA in agriculture and rural development. This entails additional efforts under ASAP's outcome 5, and particularly on leveraging this for advocacy at the national, regional and global levels. Keeping United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) National Focal Points informed of progress, for example, would be a concrete way to do so. The projects reviewed all contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, and in particular priority area D in gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, (see table 3 for a summary).

TABLE 3. ASAP1 contribution to UNFCCC Gender Action Plan Priority Area D

UNFCCC GAP ACTIVITIES FOR PRIORITY AREA D IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION.	ASAP1 CONTRIBUTION
D.1 Share experience and support capacity-building on gender budgeting, including on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and actions, as appropriate.	Could be expanded from a gender perspective.
D.2 Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies and actions, as appropriate, including good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grassroots women's organizations and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.	Many projects reviewed channel climate finance to grassroots women's organizations and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. More could be done to raise awareness of resources beyond those of IFAD, in partnership with other actors.
D.3 Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development.	Aligns to a certain extent with ASAP outcome 1: improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. More work is needed to make projects systematically gender responsive and refine what works for women as well as men, improve sex-disaggregated data, and to scale up deployment.
D.4 Support the collection and consolidation of information and expertise on gender and climate change in sectors and thematic areas as well as identifying experts on gender and climate change, as needed, and enhance knowledge platforms on gender and climate change.	Aligns with ASAP outcome 5: knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated. More work needed.
D.5 Engage women's groups and national women and gender institutions in the process of developing, implementing and updating climate policies, plans, strategies and actions, as appropriate, at all levels.	A few good practices in promoting integration of climate and gender in sectoral and sub-national development policies (e.g. Viet Nam case study and the Gambia summary). Could be stepped up, in partnership with other actors.
D.6 Exchange information on lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate (e.g. information on results, impacts and main challenges), and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto, as appropriate.	No examples identified. Opportunity to do so in climate-informed sectoral policies.
D.7 Enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis, taking into consideration multidimensional factors, to better inform gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and actions, as appropriate.	Often lacking and should be stepped up, including the sharing of such data in relevant fora and enhanced collaboration with national UNFCCC Gender Focal Points.

Way forward for ASAP+

Looking ahead, key recommendations for ASAP+, as distinct from ASAP1, are presented below, drawing on the findings of the review. Some are focused on strengthening the GEWE and CCA nexus in ASAP-funded projects while others

aim to stimulate gender-responsive adaptation outcomes with ASAP financing.

At the programme level

1. Goal: set a target of at least 50 per cent females for the proportion of poor female

smallholder household members whose climate resilience will have been increased.

2. Consider upgrading gender-sensitive to gender-responsive throughout the results framework.⁵¹
3. Outcome 1 (improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies): assess/document “gender-sensitive climate-resilient technologies” in value chains that involve women and contribute to global knowledge on what works.⁵²
4. Outcome 3 (increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters): include a preliminary assessment of the proportion of women out of the total number of individuals, and women’s group participation in community groups engaged in climate risk management, natural resource management or disaster risk reduction activities in a mid-term review of ASAP+.
5. Outcome 5 (knowledge on climate smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated): set a target for at least one knowledge product on gender and climate change a year. In addition, provide for systematic reviews and knowledge products to identify good practices and what CCA strategies work – or not – for women as well as men and each of the other IFAD mainstreaming themes, as well as test the hypothesis that integrated gender and climate action delivers better results in both, rather than addressing either in silos. This could be started immediately and draw on ASAP1 for lessons learned and best practices. Furthermore, develop case studies of good practices in ASAP+ outcome areas that do not have indicators measured in terms of people or household: specifically, Outcome 1 (improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies), Outcome 4 (rural infrastructure made climate-resilient) and Outcome 2 (increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder

agriculture production and processing). Support an ASAP+ gender award, in collaboration with IFAD’s established Gender Award programme, to draw out good practices, and to be announced at each UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP).

6. Prepare a gender strategy that is based on the ASAP+ Results Management Framework and on learning to date.
7. Establish a gender-specific financing line that pioneers the scaling up of small-scale GTA initiatives in projects, in particular: (i) increasing women’s tenure security; (ii) leadership in natural resource management groups or similar, in order to boost women’s capacities to contribute as change agents and climate change mitigation; and (iii) development and uptake of gender-responsive and clean agricultural technologies that reduce women’s workload and open up previously male-dominated domains. The financing should focus on supporting country-level actions and uptake, as well as adding value to project teams without increasing their workloads.
8. Build a database of national and international consultants with gender expertise in CCA projects and consider financing gender/CCA expertise for projects to improve gender analysis that integrates CCA, and climate change analysis that integrates a gender lens.
9. Provide for a gender assessment at mid-term to inform the programme, as well as an impact assessment at the end. These should be organized around the ASAP+ Results Management Framework and IFAD’s GEWE Policy strategic objectives. Assess the synergy between them.
10. Organize a series of learning events on gender and climate change for those responsible for programme design at the regional level.

At the project level

11. Require that project climate vulnerability analysis includes a gender lens to understand the differentiated climate-related challenges, preferences, priorities and opportunities for women and men.

51/ This paper defines **gender sensitive** as recognizing different roles of women, men, boys and girls, inequalities and gender power dynamics and trying to mitigate negative impacts in programme/action design. **Gender responsive** is defined as including specific actions to try and reduce gender inequalities and their causes.

52/ For example, the Global Database on Sustainable Land Management managed by the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies.



ANNEX 1. METHODOLOGY

All projects selected for review are from ASAP1. The findings are based on the entire project, and not only specific actions financed by ASAP1. This is for comparability as initial designs included add-on ASAP financing and specific indicators, while in most of the projects ASAP1 financing is fully blended.

The projects were chosen to represent all five IFAD regions: Asia and the Pacific region (APR), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia (NEN), East and Southern Africa region (ESA) and West and Central Africa region (WCA). They cover both completed projects. They were identified based on a preliminary review carried out in early 2022.

The project design reports and last available monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports were the primary project documents reviewed against the analytical framework – typically supervision reports, but also Mid-term Reviews (MTRs) and project completion reports. In some cases, other documents indicated by IFAD staff and previous reports were reviewed to seek clarifications. In project design reports, sections on gender as well as climate change were reviewed, and the rest of

the document was scanned rapidly. Due to time constraints, this review did not include a detailed review of gender action plans unless contained in the design documents or supervision/completion/mid-term, or the last available report's sections on IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP). For case studies the whole documents were reviewed and feedback was obtained from IFAD country offices. It is important to note that outreach figures and other achievements achieved at the time of publication are almost certain to have moved forward since the time of the review.

Further findings and analyses were obtained from the ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review,⁵³ the ASAP1 Mid-term Review⁵⁴ and the review of thematic evaluation of IFAD's support for smallholder farmers' climate change adaptation (CCA).⁵⁵

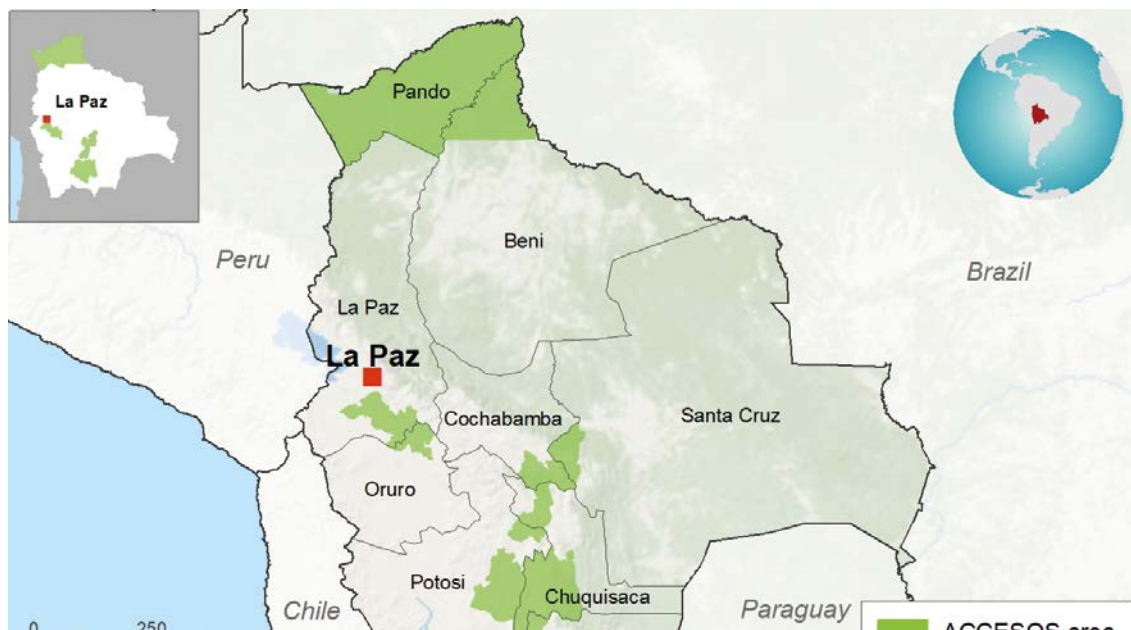
The case studies and project reviews are not comprehensive and present selected highlights relevant to this paper; other actions may have been taken that were not reflected in the documents received.

53/ IFAD, *IFAD's ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review*. Final Report (2018).

54/ ITAD, *Mid-term review of IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme* (2020).

55/ IFAD, *Thematic Evaluation of IFAD's Support for Smallholder Farmers' Adaptation to Climate Change* (2022).

ANNEX 2. CASE STUDIES



Bolivia (Plurinational State of): Economic Inclusion Programme for Rural Families and Communities in the Territory of the Plurinational State of Bolivia with funding from ASAP (ACCESOS-ASAP)

Dates and status	2013-2019, closed.
Financing	US\$59 million: IFAD loan US\$18 million, IFAD ASAP grant US\$10 million, Spanish Trust Fund \$US15 million, Government of Bolivia US\$9.7 million, beneficiaries US\$6.3 million.
Project development objective	Improved quality of life and increased climate change adaptation of mainly food-insecure rural households largely dependent on small-scale agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods.
Outreach and targeting	Outreach 59,90056 households in 52 municipalities in the highlands, valley and amazon agroecological areas. Original target 32,000 households.

Climate change challenge

Rural development and agriculture in the Plurinational State of Bolivia are highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. The poorest and most populated regions of the highlands

(Altiplano) and valleys are subject to deforestation for firewood because products such as kerosene and gas are not readily available, and they are vulnerable due to lack of access to financial and non-financial services. This exacerbates the

56/ This and other figures have mostly been rounded to the nearest 100.

impact on livelihoods, leading to the loss of crops, livestock, infrastructure and increased conflict over scarce resources. Community members were concerned with climate variability, drought, frost, hail and floods, which badly affect crops and livestock. However, they were also interested in opportunities generated by the increasing temperatures in the highlands such as growing fruit trees, which have a higher market value than traditional crops.

ASAP-supported climate action

ASAP financing aimed to increase the CCA capacity of participating families. Key components included:

1. Natural resource management, investment in assets and enterprise development: this involved supporting communities in identifying environmental risks, reversing soil degradation, improving access to water, and implementing agro-ecological and other production systems that are more productive and resistant to the effects of climate change. Natural resource management plans formed the basis of support measures for enhanced food security and community enterprise development.
2. Financial inclusion and protection: this component sought to connect smallholders with sources of credit.

The project supported the desire of local communities to preserve their traditional knowledge of farming systems and developed an inventory of practices that was blended with technology to find the best solutions for climate-related challenges.

Gender/climate analysis and project action linkages

A gender-responsive climate change adaptation analytical approach developed by CARE, Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis, was used during stakeholder consultations to understand the vulnerabilities, capacities and needs of men, women and youth in target communities. A participatory climate adaptation analysis such as this at the project design stage is important to ensure that elements of a gender action plan or similar are valid and in line with what women and men want. A gender analysis was also undertaken at the design phase by gender specialists and findings integrated throughout the project

design. Women's greater workload, difficulty in accessing natural resources and decision-making were among the issues identified. The analysis also highlighted the different capacities of women and men. For example, men focus on large-scale community interventions (e.g. building defences against erosion on riverbanks and building irrigation systems), whereas women tend to focus on improving and innovating production practices, finding alternative water supplies, and experimenting with new crop varieties.

Gender actions and achievements

In brief

The project had a special targeting focus on women and Indigenous Peoples, given the significant proportion of Aymara and Quechua peoples in the targeted area. It had an integrated Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy and set out to influence the transformation of relations between men and women. For example, indigenous women were encouraged to decide on their own priorities for funding. Partnerships with UN Women and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) enabled the project to access their gender expertise. The target for female direct beneficiaries was initially 60 per cent and at the end of the project, it had reached 46 per cent. The target of 19,200 for female-headed households (FHHs) was also exceeded, with an actual outreach of 27,200 FHHs.

Economic empowerment

A participatory approach (see below) led to an inventory of options for financing natural resource management; funding was released through a system of local competitions, or *concurcos*. With regard to the *concurcos*, by the end of the project, over 1,200 groups took part, and women comprised 43 per cent of participants. Women comprised over half of those involved in off-farm activities, including the production of bread, wine, cheese, dried fruits and meats, handicraft work, tourism and local services. Over 1,000 marketing groups had women in leadership positions.

At the project end, women comprised 57 per cent of beneficiaries of enterprise support. Women had greater access to project-facilitated financial services (71 per cent) compared to natural resource management projects (43 per cent). Interestingly, women were found to have a 91 per cent increase in their incomes due to access to

supported enterprises and their revitalization, in comparison with a control group of women who had not received project services. This figure also compares well with beneficiary families as a whole having 11 per cent more income compared to families that did not receive any type of project benefit. This finding may suggest that women were particularly entrepreneurial during the project (see box 3 for one woman's experience of transforming traditional foods to increase her income, provide jobs for other women and improve nutrition for local schoolchildren).

FHHs made up almost half of the total, benefitting from a 20 per cent reduction in climate-related losses of crops such as grapes, peaches,

potatoes and beans. They also comprised up to around 43 per cent of group members which had participated in natural resource management and climate risk management actions. Importantly for the long-term economic prospects of targeted communities was their equal contribution to over 13,000 hectares of degraded land that were restored and rehabilitated.

Increased decision-making

In line with the principles of free, prior and informed consent, project interventions were highly community driven, with specific provisions to ensure that women and youth in these communities also had a voice. The georeferenced “talking maps” were a visual and

Box 3. Revitalizing the rainforest: Eliza's story

Eliza Roca is a young mother of three from a small town nestled in the rainforest of northern Bolivia. Some years ago, she left Filadelfia to study in the city of Santa Cruz, though she stopped her studies at age 20, when her first child came along. She stayed in Santa Cruz for three more years, washing dishes in restaurants, but she eventually tired of it and decided to head back.

Today, she's a member of the Rocamero Association, a group of five families devoted to recuperating degraded lands through good agroforestry practices. For her and her fellow members, the agroforestry they practice is much more than just a business. Their 37-hectare plantation is filled with tree crops that are both profitable and restorative for the local ecology. This recuperation of the *barbechos*, as they call degraded lands, is key in this area of the Amazonas rainforest. “People are amazed that everywhere on our land you have trees and fruit. It really looks like a forest,” she says.



©IFAD/Juan Manuel Rada

They grow banana and yucca, *mara* trees (a variety of mahogany), *sinini* (a medicinal plant), *asaí* (a palm tree), cocoa and coffee. Their planting and growing cycles are carefully timed so that they constantly have products to sell and generate income. Eliza's father had always cultivated this way. Now, the ACCESOS project has supported her and her business partners to build on his model and improve it. In recognition of her traditional knowledge, the project has also certified her as a cocoa grower. This kind of qualification could get her a good job outside of Filadelfia, but these days, she would not trade her place in the world for anything.

“Here in the countryside, my life is better than in the city,” she says. “I generate my own income and, more importantly, my children are growing up in a healthy environment. I'm happy to be here, because I can keep promoting this agroforestry system my father put in place.”

Source: IFAD, IFAD-supported projects help women come back to the countryside 2020 (<https://www.ifad.org/pt-BR/web/latest/-/story/ifad-supported-projects-help-women-come-back-to-the-countryside>).

inclusive tool for mapping the natural resources present in the local territories, which, together with the scientific and traditional community knowledge of the communities, made it possible to identify key climate-related risks as well as adaptation techniques and priorities. The process involved entire communities in a series of concursos to recover, adapt and innovate technologies for sustainable community natural resource management in the context of climate change. Themes included: (i) the promotion of local agrobiodiversity and varieties adapted to a changing climate; (ii) soil conservation/water management; and (iii) intra-generational knowledge transfer. Women and youth were specifically targeted, and the maps depicted ecological risks, threats to natural resources and local resource management practices broken down by gender, age and ethnicity, i.e. the different access, control and use of natural resources of women and men and how the benefits of these resources are distributed.

These efforts helped resolve various community problems and led to an inventory of options for financing; funding was released through a system of local competitions, or concursos. These proved to be successful in engaging communities in sustainable management of ecosystems and the natural resource base. The process involved entire communities in a series of concursos to recover, adapt and innovate technologies for sustainable community natural resource management in the context of climate change. Selection criteria included better community nutrition, youth inclusion and women's participation. The project built on this mechanism to embed gender-responsive and community driven priorities in local planning. To summarise, participatory visual mapping identified issues and potential with regard to land and access to natural resources, and the concursos enabled communities to decide on jointly identified priorities to combat climate change. Importantly, the project went beyond setting quotas and provided for women's meaningful participation through leadership training in community groups.

Equitable workloads

The reduction of women's workloads was identified as a priority during stakeholder consultations; with this aim, the project introduced various initiatives such as childcare provision and a concursos theme on technologies to reduce women's domestic workloads. The project was found to have supported women's workload reduction through initiatives to manage natural resources, especially water: over 6,800 hectares benefitted from water-related infrastructure. The project also supported approaches identified by indigenous households, such as quthañas, a water harvesting system used by the Aymara people, which was scaled up to tackle water scarcity due to climate change. In addition, men's greater time availability was identified as a reason for their greater participation in some activities. No data was located on more equitable sharing of the domestic workload between women and men.

Examples of contribution to ASAP outcomes⁵⁷

Outcome 1: dedicated budget line for women- and youth-led initiatives in natural resources management, and over 500 ecosystems and biodiversity management groups had women in leadership positions.

Outcome 2: over 6,800 hectares benefitted from water-related infrastructure and traditional approaches identified by indigenous households, which supported women's workload reduction.

Outcome 3: strong emphasis on women's inclusion in climate risk analysis (such as through the talking maps) and management (for example, almost 10,000 households benefitted from improved climate information to help them protect their production). Municipalities gained capacities in gender-responsive and climate-informed Territorial Integrated Development Plans.

Outcome 4: climate-resilient water and productive infrastructure was supported, with benefits to women benefits as a core criterion.

Outcome 5: the gender-responsive participatory vulnerabilities and capacities analysis is cited

^{57/} Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

as an example in the Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook.⁵⁸

Lessons learned and reflections

1. This project takes a firmly community-based approach to CCA, where key decisions are made at the community level. A good practice to be replicated is that the intervention provides for concrete actions to promote women's decision-making and voice because these are often limited in rural communities. Women's leadership training was provided, which can be particularly important in supporting women to influence decisions, rather than limit their participation to a token physical presence. Such training, backed up by gender sensitization for male group members, can help to challenge prevailing gender norms and, in this sense, can be considered transformative. Similarly, giving indigenous women's groups direct control of their finances represented the first time that many of them could contribute to these decisions – and therefore became a transformative action.
2. The project's strategy for gender and social inclusion, developed by UN Women, addresses the interlinked issues of gender equality, youth empowerment and Indigenous Peoples' rights in an integrated manner rather than focusing only on gender. This good practice could be encouraged as it promotes a more holistic approach to addressing intersectionalities (e.g. targeting young indigenous women). The strategy prioritized the equal access of men, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples to financial services and markets. The strategy was developed three years into the project and revised in 2017; although gender-responsive measures had already been incorporated into the project design, the question remains as to whether earlier development of the plan could have led to even stronger gender equality outcomes.
3. Taking a broader view of economic empowerment, the project also placed a value on women's and men's traditional knowledge and considered this a contribution in kind by beneficiaries to total project financing. Although it does not directly empower women, this approach is in line with IFAD's SECAP and aimed to ensure farmers can benefit from their traditional knowledge. In addition, it raised awareness that women's traditional knowledge is an asset that should be preserved and can be valorized.
4. Despite the project emphasis on giving women access to decision-making, a project impact evaluation shows, that, while women's participation in strategic groups has improved in terms of membership, including in leadership positions, this progress was not necessarily replicated in the home. The participation of women was not found to have led to a statistically significant difference in the level of participation of women in decisions made about agricultural production, livestock farming, the use of business income, and general asset ownership. The project was one of the first ASAP-supported designs, and precedes the emphasis placed by IFAD on equitable intra-household decision-making. The evidence of limited decision-making of women in the home would seem to confirm the importance of adopting targeted actions on this at the household level.
5. In general, the project documentation located for this review had less data on the third strategic objective of IFAD's gender policy to do with reduced workloads and equitable benefits. A 2018 supervision reports anecdotal evidence of this from beneficiaries met on mission, but notes that these impacts should be documented. While it is likely that there were benefits to women with regard to workload, probably associated with water infrastructure, specific examples or statistics were not located in this review. The Project Completion Report notes that women's workloads may have prevented their full participation in some activities, in turn contributing to a lower than expected final proportion of women direct beneficiaries.
6. The partnership with UN Women can also be considered a good practice as this kind of arrangement mobilizes gender expertise and reduces the risks associated with gender experts being recruited late or resigning. Access to more than one expert through an institutional approach is also likely to

58/ World Bank Group, FAO and IFAD, Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture. Module 18 for Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook (2015).

be less risky and more flexible in terms of implementation. The arrangement promotes sustainability through leaving behind capacities for future potential investments.

7. The project provided for human resources and budget to deliver on commitments. Dedicated staff were contracted to deliver on commitments, including gender promoters and a national expert to support project Local Operating Units. All capacity development involved women trainers in order to overcome social barriers for women participants, which

prohibited them from mixing with unknown men. The project also allocated a dedicated budget line for women- and youth-led initiatives in natural resources management. However, the expected cascade effects in terms of capacity development of local government representatives in gender equality were not observed on a 2018 supervision mission. Nevertheless, the project's efforts to build local institutional capacities is a good practice.

Egypt: Sustainable Agriculture Investments and Livelihoods Project (SAIL)



Dates and status	2015-2023, ongoing.
Financing	US\$94.6 million: IFAD loan US\$64.6 million, IFAD ASAP grant US\$5 million, Global Environment Facility Special Climate Change Fund \$US7.8 million, Government of Egypt US\$15.2 million, beneficiaries US\$2 million.
Project development objective	Smallholder farmers enabled to increase their incomes, improve profitability and diversify their livelihoods.
Outreach and targeting	Outreach 13,700 households in the New Lands in 30 villages in Upper, Middle and Lower Egypt. Original target 40,000 households.

Climate change challenge

Egypt is located in an arid region and is expected to suffer from the impacts of climate change. Specifically, climate change is leading to increases in the severity and frequency of dry periods and droughts. Egypt is also exposed to various hazards such as dust storms, flooding and, very rarely, snowfall. One sector that is particularly exposed to climate change is agriculture. A major constraint in Egypt's agricultural system is the lack of access to land and water in "Old Lands", where most agriculture takes place but lands are overcrowded and rapidly degrading. There is little hope for agricultural development while high

poverty levels impede the sustainable use of land and natural resources.

ASAP-supported climate action

ASAP financing aims to increase the climate change adaptation capacity of participating families. Key components include:

1. Community and livelihood development
2. Agriculture production and diversification
3. Financial services and protection: this component sought to connect smallholders with a range of credit and insurance options.

These components are designed to complement each other to provide the essential inputs and services a community needs for its proper rehabilitation, agriculture production and to diversify livelihoods. The implementation approach for SAIL entails a high degree of stakeholder participation and grassroots involvement to mobilize villagers, including women, youth and the disadvantaged, as an effective force for change and self-reliance. A mix of public sector, private sector and community institutions are the foundation for implementation.

Gender/climate analysis and project action linkages

The project design report has a fairly detailed analysis of women's roles and constraints/interests in the project area, which is positive, although the impact of climate change is not explicitly mentioned. A climate vulnerability assessment was undertaken during the design process to identify the main risks on the target areas and define a preliminary set of adaptive measures, but the document was not located and it is not clear to what extent this reflects gender dimensions. The design document has also made provisions to integrate a gender lens into climate-related research during implementation (e.g. "in research and investments on climate change, the impact of climate change on women and their role in developing resilience to climate change will be highlighted" and "the project will hold dialogues on climate change with both women and men to develop strategies for resilience").

Gender actions and achievements

In brief

The target for female direct beneficiaries is 40 per cent. Women are also to be 40 per cent of poor smallholder household members supported in coping with the effects of climate change and presently comprise 56 per cent of total beneficiaries. The project seeks to expand opportunities for women and their gender roles in the window of opportunity presented by reclaiming new lands. Women-specific income-generating activities (IGAs) are supported.

Economic empowerment

The project has developed a strategy for the participation of women in its activities and equitable benefits that is built on a recognition

that women play a key role in agriculture, as well as in the home, but lack visibility as farmers. The agriculture development and diversification component includes provisions to promote women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and through these access productive technologies, if necessary, through dedicated women's groups within them. Farmer field schools for livestock primarily target women, who also receive training in crop and livestock management (see box 4).

The project has also been promoting women's inclusion in market associations, as well as women-only associations if needed. Other strategies include promoting women's access to credit and savings by ensuring their representation in community development organizations (CDAs), recruiting and training female loan officers, and loan arrangements that are appropriate for women's circumstances. Literacy training to help women understand financing options is also planned. Women will be trained and deployed as community-based livestock extension workers, thereby challenging gender norms as the role is not traditionally considered appropriate for women in rural areas. These strategies are starting to pay off. Women are 49 per cent of those accessing loans and are expected to comprise almost 60 per cent at the end of the project. They comprise 70 per cent of those trained in IGAs, and 500 grants will support women to start their own IGAs.

These grants to women are aimed at helping them diversify their incomes, as well as improve nutrition through purchasing small livestock. Field visits by IFAD social inclusion specialists indicate that the impact of these grants, which target extremely poor farmers, is substantive. For example, one woman in Sidhi Talha village bought an apiculture kit and technical assistance, and beekeeping is now her main source of income, in which she is supported by her husband. Given that she has no land or livestock, this grant has given her a viable livelihood that also brings environmental benefits. Another woman has bought a sewing machine and a machine for finishing and embroidery and accessed training in writing a feasibility report for her business plan, developing the business plan, marketing and negotiation. She is now proudly contributing to living expenses and her children's education and has decreased her family's dependence on farming.

Box 4. Climate-smart farmer field schools for women in Egypt

A key project activity is to promote innovative climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and natural resource management practices and technologies through participatory and highly practical farmer field schools (FFS). Implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close collaboration with government agencies at national, governorate and district levels, and community NGOs, over 150 FFS are in the process of supporting over 3,400 smallholders (approximately 1,000 women) to test, adapt and replicate CSA practices. The starting point was a review of household and community needs through consultations in target villages, in which women had a chance to voice their priorities. Special efforts were made to include women FFS facilitators, the majority of livestock trainers, and use visual approaches to communicate key concepts.



A facilitator leading a FFS session



Agro-ecological analysis by FFS facilitator

Source: FAO, *Project on enhancing crop and livestock production and productivity in new lands through the adoption of innovative climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies* (2021).

Increased decision-making

The project promotes women's voices in community decisions through their participation and leadership in CDA. CDAs are an important entry point for contributing to decisions on social infrastructure, economic opportunities and related capacity development provided by the project. Two women's CDAs have been established and women comprise 28 per cent of CDAs overall against a target of 30 per cent; 44 women have so far benefitted from related training.

Over 300 women participated in training courses for rural leaders through CDAs, showing clear linkages with increased participation of women

in community development planning processes. Women rural leaders include those working at community level (three to four women per village) to engage with women's groups as spokespersons for their aspirations and requests during public meetings, as well as provide key information for women's economic and training opportunities under SAIL. The training has also facilitated their active participation during village development planning processes that engage communities and officials from line ministries. Agricultural cooperatives also have women's committees to discuss issues specific to women farmers, and representatives of these committees are included on the cooperative boards.

At an individual level, over 250 women have so far been supported to obtain identification cards in order to access various social benefits. There is also a target for 10,000 women to access climate information services, including an early warning system, to support their decision-making about production.

Equitable workloads

Women's workloads were tackled in a number of ways. The project has invested in introducing and upgrading water and energy infrastructure, including renewable technologies, and the target is that women will account for 50 per cent of beneficiaries. Women will therefore benefit from improved access to tube wells, drinking water and waste management, all of which impacts positively on their time burden. Health clinics are expected to ease the care burden on women, which may increase as a result of climate change. Furthermore, schools and nurseries mean that it is easier for them to work and reduces their double load of working and childcare. Encouraging women's participation in water user groups is aimed at giving women a say in how this fundamental resource is managed; currently just under 30 women are present in 49 groups.

Examples of contribution to ASAP outcomes⁵⁹

Outcome 1: there is a target for increased engagement of women in natural resource management and climate risk management activities, although at the last supervision mission, it was noted as 13 per cent.

Outcome 2: over 5,000 households will be supported with increased water availability or efficiency, benefitting female and male members.

Outcome 3: a dynamic agriculture information and response system will target 20,000 beneficiaries (50 per cent women).

Outcome 4: women are to be 30 per cent of those with new jobs as a result of new or existing rural infrastructure protected from climate events.

Outcome 5: case studies are being prepared on women's participation in CSA.

Lessons learned and reflections

1. In terms of knowledge management, the project design has a provision to highlight the impact of climate change on women and their role in developing resilience in research and investments. Furthermore, it plans to hold dialogues at the community level on the subject. Evidence of such actions was not located during this review, but this would be a good practice in contributing a gender perspective to ASAP's outcome 5 (see below), which was not frequently noted during the review as a whole.
2. In the rural finance component, an organization with a track record of lending to women was engaged to provide credit through CDAs. This emphasis on pragmatic measures is characteristic of the project in general and increases the likelihood that gender-related outcomes will be achieved. Budget allocations, gender-balanced staffing, periodic gender audits, and disaggregation of youth by sex are some examples of good practices. Separating walls around spaces in youth centres dedicated to females are higher, to take into account cultural norms which is just one such example of how the project considers women's practical needs.
3. Thanks to the project's emphasis on giving women access to decision-making, they are reported in supervision missions as being present and active in their communities and farmer's organizations. Importantly, project aspirations are backed up by practical leadership training. It is interesting to consider to what extent the specific context of settling new lands might also be conducive to pushing boundaries when conservative gender norms prevail, in the same way that rehabilitation after war and disasters may offer opportunities to expand roles for women. However, the impact of health pandemics like COVID-19 on women should not be underestimated; with women's domestic care burden increased, it is challenging for them to become active change agents.

^{59/} Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

4. The project is investing in the installation of weather stations and the development of a dynamic agriculture information and response system to improve longer term forecasting to enhance the capacity to cope with and respond to climate change related hazards, by transmitting key information to extension agents, cooperatives and farmers through mobile technology. Women comprise 50 per cent of the targeted 20,000 beneficiaries, although no data was located on the extent to which women's and men's specific needs were taken into account in design. Farmers met on a field visit in 2022 and requested that it should be upgraded to provide advice on herbal and medicinal plants; it may be that the farmers were women, as these plants are often grown by them. However, a general recommendation for all projects implementing climate information services and early warning systems is that they are based on an analysis of women's and men's needs. For example, they could explicitly include a focus on crops that women cultivate, be more visual in contexts of low literacy and consider mobile internet penetration among rural women.
5. A gender specialist was recruited in 2021, after the mid-point of the project, and a gender strategy has been adopted at the time of writing. While positive, earlier recruitment and gender planning would be preferable, although there may have been challenges in hiring/retaining gender specialists, as in a number of IFAD-supported projects. It is not clear to what extent the gender strategy connects gender and CCA.
6. Women make up 40 per cent of smallholder household members supported in coping with the effects of climate change, so that there is a link in project results between gender and climate change adaptation. Furthermore, the project's results framework also sets a target for women to comprise 30 per cent of those supported to adopt CSA and natural resource management practices and technologies through FFS. This last target is an example of how projects can empower women as well as men as agents of change, as well as beneficiaries. While not the only project reviewed with a similar provision, relatively fewer projects chose this type of target. Given that women's roles as farmers are well established, it would seem logical to ensure that more projects adopt targets for women as well as men in adopting CSA practices.

Uganda: Project for the Restoration of Livelihoods in the Northern Region (PRELNOR)



Dates and status	2015-2023, ongoing.
Financing	US\$71m: IFAD loan US\$50.2 million, IFAD ASAP grant US\$10 million, Government of Uganda US\$9.3 million, beneficiaries US\$1.5 million.
Project development objective	Increased sustainable production, productivity and climate resilience of smallholder farmers with increased and profitable access to domestic and export markets.
Outreach and targeting	Outreach 128,380 households in eight districts in Acholi and Adjumani sub-regions. Original target 155,000 households.

Climate change challenge

Uganda experiences vast differences in rainfall patterns across the country, mainly due to its diverse landscapes. With average temperatures increasing, agriculture will be hard hit by adverse climate conditions such as drought, intense and erratic rainfall, increasing temperatures and increasing incidence of high winds. Northern Uganda is home to 20 per cent of Uganda’s entire population, but it accounts for 38 per cent of Uganda’s poorest. People in the project area have suffered from internal conflicts and life in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps so could not learn farming and other skills through their parents. Most farmers returning from IDP camps have so

far been relying on the natural fertility of the soils, leading to low yields.

ASAP-supported climate action

The goal of PRELNOR is to improve food security and farming system resilience of smallholder farmers while mitigating climate change. Key components include:

1. Rural livelihoods, which supports poor farm families and youth to have an increased asset base and resilience.
2. Market linkages and infrastructure, which helps farmers with surplus crop production to receive higher prices and profitably sell larger volumes of crop products through expanded access to Ugandan and regional markets.

The first component includes a focus on building the capacity of targeted communities to plan and implement gender-sensitive group activities using the Gender Action Learning System (GAL), a household-level gender-responsive behavioural change approach tested in the previous IFAD-funded District Livelihoods Support Programme, supporting extension, community-based natural resources management plans, and renewable energy technologies. The second component focuses on market access skills and market access infrastructure.

Gender/climate analysis and project action linkages

The project design included a gender analysis, although it did not include how women and girls/men and boys are differently impacted by climate change in the project area and adaptation priorities. The climate change analysis also omitted a gender dimension. It is not clear how far the gender and climate adaptation nexus was covered in the baseline survey. Looking at the actions planned and overall focus of PRELNOR, it is reasonable to assume that an understanding of this was implicit in the project design (e.g. activities to support women's access to water). Nevertheless, ASAP investments should ensure that all climate analysis to explicitly consider differential impacts and priorities of women and men, as well as youth, Indigenous Peoples, the differently abled etc.

Gender actions and achievements

In brief

Gender transformative approaches are helping to change gender norms at the household level, and women are benefitting from a range of climate services, support for natural resource management and access to decision-making committees. Women comprise 53 per cent of direct beneficiaries against a target of 52 per cent, and FHHs account for 40 per cent of households reached against a target of 60 per cent.

Economic empowerment

The project adopted a holistic approach to economic empowerment for both women and men in particularly vulnerable families. The household focus for these households engages

both women and men in identifying challenges, including how gender inequalities are hampering the family's goals, which generally include an improvement in their financial situation. The handbook for facilitators requires them to carry out a gender analysis that includes climate change dimensions (resilience, risk assessment and mitigation measures),⁶⁰ therefore explicitly linking gender and climate change. PRELNOR's household focus aims to increase income available for the household through improved transparency, pooling efforts by women and men, supported by improved knowledge and skills. This is a significant step forward for households, many of whom report that both men and women previously hid their earnings from each other. The process involves a small grant to households making progress, which enables them to buy inputs such as seeds, hand tools and domestic animals, and produce enough for the household and to sell some surplus. Moreover, the experience of mentors themselves helped to build their self-esteem and become role models in their communities (see box 5).

The project also targeted women already engaged in marketing by setting a 33 per cent target for membership in farmer groups: by June 2021 the project had already achieved 65 per cent. These groups gave women access to training in agriculture and agroforestry skills, as well as in entrepreneurship, market identification and development, business planning, financial management training and assistance to develop their own business plans. These skills enabled beneficiaries to increase their incomes through increased production and sale of produce. For example, during a 2021 IFAD supervision mission, members of Gwok Kic Farmer Group in Pader district testified that the increased production has enabled women to buy assets, such as motorcycles, goats, chickens and cows, and some have built houses.

Soil fertility, which has been degraded as a result of the changing climate, is a major determinant of productivity and therefore income potential. Through PRELNOR, women have also been benefitting from project support for a range of climate-resilient technologies and practices,

60/ See the handbook developed for Uganda: https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39148759/prelnor_hhm.pdf/4ec1a924-cdb6-63d2-b468-983b00a5e348?t=1575047381000.

Box 5. Gender-transformative household mentoring

Molly Ajok is a 33-year-old household mentor from northern Uganda. Molly was born in a remote village in Uganda's Omoro district. When she was just a toddler, her family fled to Gulu town to escape the civil war raging throughout the area. She stayed there for most of her life, but in 2017, she fell on hard times. With no job and no hope of completing her diploma training, Molly was struggling to provide for herself and her young child.

The turning point came when she was selected by the community to become a household mentor as part of the IFAD-supported PRELNOR project. Mentoring programmes like the one in Agwari help families improve their livelihoods by developing their capacity to set priorities and plan for the future. Participating families apply these skills first within their own households, then at a community level through involvement in various groups and development initiatives. Programme facilitators and household mentors from within the community provide guidance and support at every step. This is where Molly's leadership experience started.

Molly believes a leader should live by example. So she started exploring her own family dynamics using the skills she had learned. At first, it was not easy to get her family talking about these topics, particularly her father, who was used to making all the decisions for the household. But after she opened a conversation on gender roles and started discussing ways to redistribute the work at home, they came around. Today, her father willingly includes his wife in the decision-making.

Molly has also identified her own vision journey and set goals for herself. She is now working on growing her own businesses and increasing her income. In addition to her mentoring work, she began a poultry- and pig-raising project. It is already paying off and it increased her income by 40 per cent in 2019.

Today, several years into her role as a household mentor, Molly's experiences have shaped her into an exemplary leader. Her reputation precedes her, and she is spoken highly of throughout the community. In recognition of her skills, she was recently selected as the chairperson for her village child protection committee.

What has all this got to do with climate change adaptation? Put simply, tackling gender inequalities in the home can improve household assets, incomes and wellbeing, which, in turn build resilience against climate change impacts. The methodology also included gender analysis of climate change issues affecting beneficiaries and can be used flexibly to incorporate climate change sensitization.

Source: IFAD 2021. How to change a life: Household mentoring makes a difference in northern Uganda (<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/household-mentoring-uganda>)

including SLWM and community based natural resource management, conservation agriculture, improved seed varieties that are more resistant to drought and disease), rainwater harvesting and better post-harvest technologies. In July 2022, women made up over half of all project beneficiaries engaged in climate risk management activities to ensure their farming productivity, contributing to bringing over 121,000 hectares of land under climate resilient practices.

Increased decision-making

PRELNOR has a number of strategies to increase women's decision-making at the community level but also, importantly, in the home. At the community level, PRELNOR has prioritized women's participation in key committees and groups. In addition to the target for women's membership in farmer groups, the project has a target of 40 per cent for women in management and decision-making committees. For example,

in order to ensure that women benefit from the planned climate resilient infrastructure, PRELNOR has included a 40 per cent target for women on community access roads management committees and for at least one woman among the top three executives. Additionally, contractors are guided to fulfil gender considerations as part of their contracting terms; although this was not done for the first batch of roads, the IFAD supervision system picked this up and the situation improved. The project design report notes that participation of women may be much higher as many farmer groups began as Village Savings and Loan Association groups, in which women constitute up to 70 per cent of members. With regard to market-ready producers, the project is supporting market stakeholder platforms (MSP), whose role is to guide the design and management of markets, including provisions for rest places for women with babies, access to separate water and sanitation facilities. However, over 365,000 women and 335,000 men have accessed climate information services, including early warning systems and weather forecasts, largely through local radio and from extension workers. While it is not clear to what extent these services were designed based on an understanding women's and men's different needs and preferences, the significant outreach to women is very positive.

Focusing on the household, the GALS and household mentoring outlined above specifically aimed to tackle entrenched gender norms that often mean women have little or no control over income or other decisions. The evidence from the ten thousand vulnerable families is overwhelmingly positive and indicates more equitable decision-making after the mentoring process. Addressing gender norms in the home can support women's meaningful participation in community groups; IFAD has learned that group participation targets are often unmet if women are not permitted to do so or simply do not have time in view of their disproportionate workloads. This also has important implications for climate change adaptation, such as supporting women's

equal voice in deciding on household adaptation strategies.

Equitable workloads

The PRELNOR gender strategy addressed women's workloads through providing access to labour-saving technologies, as well as addressing the gender norms within households that lead to women's greater time burden. All 10,000 vulnerable households and over 16,000 additional households have been given clean cookstoves, with field evidence indicating that women spend less time collecting firewood and cooking. There are also well-known health benefits resulting from avoiding smoke inhalation. The cookstoves are a simple but effective climate change adaptation measure as firewood becomes ever scarcer and collection involves more and more time. Another significant benefit is that women are less exposed to physical violence as they have to travel further from home to collect firewood. Finally, there are also clear carbon mitigation benefits from cutting charcoal and firewood consumption. Similarly, supporting rainwater harvesting is being adopted as a simple yet effective strategy to reduce women's time and labour in fetching water for domestic and productive use.

The food security grants for vulnerable households are also helping families to acquire labour-saving assets with multiple benefits. Some women have bought ox ploughs, enabling them to reduce their labour and time spent in gardens - with the added benefit that the new plough has encouraged men to engage in ploughing gardens, freeing up women. One woman, Jennifer Ayeti, from Gulu District, acquired an ox plough when she only owned one bull and her neighbour also owned one bull. Together, they ploughed each other's gardens. With the sale of her increased produce, she bought another bull and can now plough her own garden and earns some income ploughing land for other farmers. Piloted machinery such as rice threshers, cassava chippers and animal traction have also reduced women's drudgery in farm activities.

Examples of contribution to ASAP outcomes⁶¹

Outcome 1: project target is for women to comprise 52 per cent of individuals engaged in NRM activities. A participatory planning and mapping highlighted the farming systems and NRM issues that determined the types of production and NRM management activities supported.

Outcome 2: the project has provisions for rainwater harvesting and access to run-off from climate-resilient local roads, although benefits to women are not clear.

Outcome 3: women members are to comprise 52 per cent of people in farmer groups engaged in climate risk management activities and 52 per cent of those receiving climate information services.

Outcome 4: households reporting improved physical access to markets, processing and storage facilities is disaggregated by FHH although data was not available in the latest supervision report. Community road construction committees aim to ensure that communities are fully engaged in the design and construction process, and women are to be 40 per cent of these committees to ensure they can influence the process and outcomes.

Outcome 5: the various GALS knowledge products that are planned could explicitly address the nexus with climate change as well as other IFAD mainstreaming priorities.

Lessons learned and reflections

1. It is useful to consider the importance of the enabling framework for PRELNOR's adoption of GTAs and the project's attention to gender equality. Firstly, the preceding project had also adopted household methodologies, which formed a strong basis. However, IFAD is not alone and several actors also promote this GTA. Importantly, joint household decision-making is a key strategy in Uganda's policy framework. The National Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan 2015/16–2019/20 provides for this, and the National Climate-Smart Agriculture Programme 2015–2025

emphasizes the cultural limitations that restrict women's decision-making in the home. The national Climate Change Policy (2015) encourages that both men and women participate meaningfully in planning, testing and rolling out adaptation and mitigation activities. Moreover, the national NDC implementation process involved an in-depth gender analysis, which identified agriculture as a key sector. There is also an ongoing focus on gender and climate change in the country; for example, a training course on gender-responsive climate action was held in 2021 for technicians working on the national greenhouse gas emissions inventory.⁶² In other words, there is a supporting enabling framework for the gender and climate change nexus, and specifically for joint decision-making and PRELNOR has been contributing to these goals. A recommendation for this and other ASAP projects would be to include any gender provisions in NDCs and climate policy and vice versa, in both the gender and climate sections of design documents, so as to ensure projects align with key policy provisions.

2. The project design presents how gender-responsive household methodologies will be implemented in the first component and has a provision to develop a gender strategy in the second component. While this was indeed done at an early stage, it is preferable to have an overarching gender strategy from the start to avoid delays and implementation risks. GALS is only one approach to achieving gender equality and needs to be supplemented as appropriate by community and policy interventions. In reality, even in the design document, the project does effectively have a differentiated gender strategy for the household as well as community level, and for vulnerable as well as economically oriented women. Although a gender/climate change strategy is not spelled out as such, the various actions do constitute a comprehensive gender-responsive adaptation strategy.

61/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

62/ UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation, Implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan, areas for improvement and further work to be undertaken (Fifty-sixth session Bonn, 6 – 16 June 2022).

3. PRELNOR has a stronger focus on IFAD's third strategic objective 3 (reduced workloads) than some ASAP financed projects; this makes sense in the context of CCA as it is known to exacerbate women's workloads. The use of GALS, access to water and clean cookstoves are some such strategies. Interestingly, a recent supervision mission report notes that "conservation basins were the least perceived to increase yields, and labour requirements were reported as high, highlighting the need for provision of alternatives to laborious technologies, especially for women and the vulnerable." This kind of gender-responsive analysis by a technical specialist in an area other than gender is encouraging and was not otherwise encountered in this review. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of ensuring that sustainable land and water management (SLWM) techniques take into account women's and men's different needs and priorities.
4. Engaging women in SLWM and natural resource management is important as globally, despite their key roles as farmers, women tend to have access to poorer quality and marginal lands, weak tenure rights and often no formal ownership. PRELNOR therefore did not require women's ownership of land as an eligibility criterion for participation in these activities, and instead opened the activities to women with access to land. This type of provision is to be recommended, and means opportunities are also open to women left behind to manage family lands formally owned by men that have had to migrate or are not present for other reasons.
5. The project will also be subject to an IFAD impact assessment and use the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) for the baseline, mid-term and final evaluations. It will be important for PRELNOR, as well as a learning opportunity for other ASAP-supported projects, to reflect on the experience of implementing this M&E plan from an integrated climate and gender perspective. The various GAL knowledge products that are planned could also explicitly address the nexus with climate change as well as other IFAD mainstreaming priorities, thereby making a valuable contribution to the state of knowledge on this approach.

Viet Nam: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Mekong Delta (AMD)



Dates and status	2014-2020, closed.
Financing	US\$49.4 million: IFAD loan US\$22 million, IFAD ASAP grant US\$12 million, Government of Viet Nam US\$7.6 million, beneficiaries US\$7.8 million.
Project objective	To strengthen the adaptive capacity of target communities and institutions to better contend with climate change.
Outreach and targeting	Outreach 46,000 households in 60 communes in 15 districts in Ben Tre and Tra Vinh provinces. Original target 30,000 households.

Climate change challenge

Viet Nam is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and among the countries hardest hit by climate change. Rising sea levels are expected to affect up to half of the low-lying Mekong Delta. Changes in rainfall and temperatures are increasing the risk of floods, typhoons and droughts, and the combination of climatic and human-made pressures is disrupting the supply of drinking water to thousands of households and increasing soil salinity, which threatens agricultural production for smallholder farmers. All this has serious implications for Viet Nam’s socio-economic development, especially in the densely populated and productive Mekong Delta, the source of much of the country’s rice exports and fishery production.

ASAP climate action

The goal of AMD was to support sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor in a changing environment by strengthening the adaptive capacity of target communities and institutions to better contend with climate change. Key components included:

1. Building adaptive capacity within a comprehensive agriculture sector CCA framework
2. Investing in sustainable livelihoods: increased inclusive financing for market-oriented, climate-smart agriculture and agribusinesses.

The project worked to enhance smallholder resilience by supporting direct engagement in village- and commune-level planning. This

influenced provincial financial allocations, improved access to knowledge about climate adaptation, enhanced access to credit, diversified livelihoods and income streams, improved natural resource management and CSA, provided small-scale climate-resilient community infrastructure, encouraged membership in social networks such as common interest groups, and encouraged public-private partnerships.

Gender/climate analysis and project action linkages

The project design document refers to salinity as one of the worst impacts of climate change in the project area, and that women and FHHs are especially vulnerable because they are exposed to greater risk, given their direct reliance on agriculture and the natural resource base for their livelihoods, their greater exposure to natural disasters and lesser adaptive capacity because of their weaker starting position with regard to assets and decision-making. The project targeted women and FHHs, providing them with access to credit to buy technologies to access water and boost incomes and therefore resilience. It also set targets for women's participation in decision-making in community and provincial decisions.

Gender actions and achievements

In brief

Women and FHHs were prioritized. Women comprised 54 per cent of total beneficiaries and 44 per cent of beneficiaries of project actions, thus exceeding original targets. Over 60,000 FHHs were reached against an initial target of 30,000.

Economic empowerment

The project placed particular emphasis on women's economic empowerment in the context of climate change, and a package of access to finance and technical advice was the main strategy in the medium term. Women were able to apply for up to VND7.7 million⁶³ from the Women's Development Fund and VND12 million from the project for livelihoods activities and over 95 per cent of women participants benefitted from the funds. The financing was backed up by technical advice on crop and farming options to make them

climate smart; for example, the impacts of climate change and which farming models could work best in a changing climate, irrigation techniques and also small business management. Women invested these funds in inputs and technologies, such as sprinkler systems and seeds to improve production (see box 6 below).

The project also promoted institutional change, going beyond individual credit lines and supporting new women's savings and credit groups (SCGs), in which women accounted for 90 per cent and 100 per cent in Ben Tre and Tra Vinh respectively. According to surveys conducted by the Women's Development Fund, more than 90 per cent of SCG members increased their incomes and approximately 60 per cent graduated from poverty. Furthermore, the project supported the SCGs to transform into registered and sustainable microfinance institutions capable of offering long term benefits to their members. Registered status can enable members to engage in larger income-generating projects and access new financing sources, making a step change in women's economic empowerment. The Women's Union, with its long experience in supporting such groups, proved to be an important partner in moving from individual credit to sustainable financial institutions that explicitly target women.

Increased decision-making

The project had a criterion for women to comprise at least 40 per cent of village development boards, which selected and managed the implementation of community infrastructure investment schemes based on technical inputs from projects and their own suggestions. This gave women access to strategic fora and to shape the choice of small-scale infrastructure⁶⁴ for communities, rural households and agri-businesses to create and protect livelihoods.

The project also sought to ensure women's participation in policy formulation, with a minimum target for women's participation in climate-informed small enterprise development projects (SEDPs). In fact, women's participation in consultations was 54 per cent in Ben Tre and 55 per cent in Tra Vinh, significantly exceeding the

63/ VND is the abbreviation of Viet Nam's national currency, the Vietnamese dong.

64/ Such as roads combined with storm surge prevention, saline intrusion prevention sluice systems, and water supply canals.

Box 6. Tuoi from Tra Vinh saves her family from salinity intrusion

“With the sprinkler irrigation system, I have saved a lot of time and labour and the yield has also increased!”
Thach Thi Hong Tuoi, Hao Loi Commune.

Thach Thi Hong Tuoi is a young farmer of Khmer descent living in Hao Loi Commune in Tra Vinh. Tuoi and her husband have 0.28 hectares of land where they used to cultivate rice and some vegetables. In 2016, they were hard hit by drought and salinity intrusion: “Even though we are in a freshwater region, we were badly affected by the salinity intrusion.” says Tuoi, who lost around half of her rice crops.

Tuoi and her husband adapted by shifting their entire production to vegetables and ending rice cultivation. They began growing five different vegetables in rotation and were able to earn around VND6 million (US\$260). But as their dependence on vegetable production increased, farm water management emerged as a major challenge. Without irrigation, Tuoi and her husband were spending a lot of time and energy watering their crops and were struggling to maintain productivity.

Thanks to an irrigation system installed with support from the AMD project, Tuoi has saved significant time and energy. By pooling her personal resources with VND12 million (US\$518) from AMD’s Climate Change Adaptation Fund and VND7.7 million (US\$330) from the Women’s Development Fund, Tuoi was able to build a sprinkler irrigation system covering more than 0.10 hectares. Besides adaptation financing, Tuoi received technical support and training in the effective use of sprinkler systems, and in climate-resilient vegetable farming practices that improve productivity.

Source: IFAD 2021. Building climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific region. Key results and lessons learned from IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme.

original minimum target of 30 per cent. This is an excellent achievement, although it is not clear how meaningful women’s participation in decision-making was promoted. In other words, whether women were actually being able to voice their opinions freely and to what extent their priorities were taken into account in defining the SEDPs. A good practice is that the project design provided for SEDPs to be informed by community-based adaptation and community-based disaster risk management planning, which were to include gender and power analyses in order to develop an understanding of gender relations, norms and inequities, as well as beneficiaries’ long-term aspirations, vulnerable groups, economic opportunities, local institutions and power dynamics. This is important, as “community based” does not necessarily mean gender responsive, and policy support that does not build on gender analysis risks making provisions that do not take into account women’s and men’s different roles, vulnerabilities, capacities and priorities. However, the gender analysis appeared not to have taken place, and it was not possible

to assess the SEDPs for gender-responsiveness within the time frame.

As well as participation in the SEDP process, women’s leadership was promoted in groups that influenced the adoption of climate adaptation technologies. For example, women leaders comprised approximately 40 per cent of common interest groups in the two provinces.

Reducing workloads

The main strategy was to provide access to finance to women to enable them to buy or rent labour-saving technologies of their choosing based on the technologies promoted by the project aimed at enabling farmer production systems to adapt to climate change impacts, such as energy-efficient farm equipment and renewable energy technologies. However, workloads were also increased for some women as a result of the economic opportunities offered (see section on lessons learned below).

Lessons learned and reflections

1. The project results management framework included an output for the participatory development of gender-sensitive models for farmers and aquaculturists to formally engage in climate-resilient, profitable production. The models related to salinity monitoring, and although there was generally minimal progress due to administrative reasons, including such an output is a positive measure. Projects could define what gender sensitive, gender responsive or gender mainstreaming mean in specific contexts. In reality, the small pieces of equipment bought by women with project financing were also gender-responsive technologies or “models” in that they reduced workloads and supported women’s livelihoods and, importantly, women chose them.
2. The project is an example of a how a robust and gender-responsive M&E system can identify issues in time to support implementation. For example, supervision mission recommendations and an IFAD pan-ASAP gender assessment in 2018 highlighted the urgent need for dedicated gender expertise,⁶⁵ a gender action plan based on gender analysis, the development of a gender training handbook and delivery of gender training. Later supervision reports indeed confirmed that these issues had been addressed, which reinforced the importance of ensuring gender expertise on implementation support and supervisions. On the other hand, outcome-level results were not systematically captured in both provinces.
3. As in many contexts, offering economic opportunities to women was found to exacerbate workload, although some women did report a more equitable sharing of workload in the family.⁶⁶ Given that rural women often have a greater time burden compared to rural men and that climate change tends to exacerbate women’s workloads, this is a

particularly serious consequence. A strong focus on labour-saving technologies that target women to balance income generating opportunities may be one strategy to counterbalance this risk. However, it cannot be assumed that women will buy or rent labour-saving devices once they have access to finance, always assuming that the finance is indeed for their use and not diverted to other family members. Women may have competing investment priorities and may opt for profit-enhancing rather than labour-saving options, so capacity development on win-win options may help. It is important to distinguish between technologies that reduce women’s paid work from those that reduce unpaid labour and to prioritize those that reduce unpaid labour to reduce women’s drudgery.⁶⁷

Another strategy could be to integrate messages about the importance of more equitable sharing of workloads in the home to promote household wellbeing. This kind of sensitization is at the heart of the household methodologies that IFAD promotes as a key gender transformative approach (GTA) to tackle underlying gender norms. Since it is well established that there is a risk of increasing women’s workloads through offering economic opportunities to women, and that climate change exacerbates women’s already disproportionately heavy workloads, this risk and mitigation measures should feature in all SECAP assessments.

4. A mixed picture emerges with regard to women’s decision-making power in the home at project end compared to its start. In Tra Vinh, no significant improvement was found with regard to women’s participation in important household decisions, including new investment decisions, and land and valuable assets remained in men’s names.⁶⁸ On the other hand, a draft impact assessment of the project by IFAD finds significant improvements in women’s empowerment in all three

65/ It should be noted that attention to gender issues and women’s inclusion were in the terms of reference of other project staff, such as the Climate Change Adaptation Participatory Coordinator and Rural Finance Specialist.

66/ IFAD, *Household End-Line Survey Report of AMD Impact Assessment in Tra Vinh Province* (2020).

67/ World Bank Group, FAO and IFAD, *Gender in Climate- Smart Agriculture, Module 18 for the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook. Thematic Note 1: The role of innovative technologies for gender-responsive CSA* (2015).

68/ IFAD, *Household End-Line Survey Report of AMD Impact Assessment in Tra Vinh Province* (2020).

dimensions of the IFAD Integrated WEAI.⁶⁹ In any case, IFAD's experience is that women's equal decision-making in the home is indeed a critical issue, which can also be tackled effectively by household methodologies and other GTAs at the household level.

5. Support for gender-responsive and climate-informed policy development should go beyond participation targets in policy processes. While women's participation in SEDP development was welcomed, some women were not sure their priorities would be considered and others did not feel adequately prepared to contribute meaningfully.⁷⁰ Actions could include: (i) gender analysis; (ii) processes to ensure that women's and gender equality stakeholders' voices are heard and acted on; (iii) that women as well as men have access to the knowledge and skills to engage effectively; and (iv) a review of the final policy instrument to assess whether it reflects priorities emerging from consultations with women, gender experts and gender analysts.
6. Despite the direct targeting of FHHs, which reported increased earnings, the average income was found to be lower than the average income of male-headed households.⁷¹ This would imply that a more nuanced targeting strategy is needed for female heads of households, starting with an analysis of their specific challenges. If, for example, they have less access to less productive land or other assets than women in male-headed households, a project could consider targeting them with non-farm options or a targeted asset accumulation strategy.

7. Targets for women's participation were complemented by poverty criteria and targets for the minimum participation of ethnic minorities.⁷² This allowed for more nuanced targeting that reflects multiple socio-economic characteristics (e.g. ethnic minority women).
8. A knowledge product was planned to assess the impact of climate finance channelled through micro-credit on women. The study was not located, but it would have been a useful reference for future projects in Viet Nam and beyond. Another useful study would have been on gender-responsive technologies: which climate-smart options worked for women and lessons learned.

Examples of contribution to ASAP outcomes⁷³

Outcome 1: gender targets in access to financing for climate-smart livelihoods backed up by technical advice on crop and farming options to make them "climate smart".

Outcome 2: technical assistance and financing for irrigation techniques for women and men, with targets for women.

Outcome 3: see outcome 1.

Outcome 4: the project had a criterion for women to comprise at least 40 per cent of village development boards, which managed the implementation of community infrastructure investment schemes.

Outcome 5: knowledge product to assess the impact of climate finance channelled through micro-credit on women (if completed).

69/ The IFAD I-WEAI questionnaire is based on the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index and adapted to the IFAD supported projects. It was developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute and is being piloted in six project impact assessments, including the AMD project in Viet Nam. The IFAD Integrated WEAI encompasses a number of gender-specific indicators across three agency domains. The "intrinsic agency" (power within) domain encompasses the indicators autonomy in income, self-efficacy, attitudes about intimate partner violence against women, respect among household members. The "instrumental agency" (power to) domain encompasses the following indicators: input in productive decisions, ownership of land and other assets, access to and decisions on financial services, control over use of income, work balance, visiting important locations. Finally, the "collective agency" (power with) domain covers the indicators of group membership and membership in influential groups.

70/ IFAD, *Household End-Line Survey Report of AMD Impact Assessment in Tra Vinh Province* (2020).

71/ IFAD, *Household End-Line Survey Report of AMD Impact Assessment in Tra Vinh Province* (2020).

72/ At the time of design, youth had yet to be re-prioritized at IFAD.

73/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

ANNEX 3. ASAP1 GENDER REVIEW SUMMARIES

The information in this section summarizes selected actions taken by 15 ASAP1 projects across all five IFAD regions in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. The actions were identified in a rapid review of project design reports and the last available supervision report/completion reports. The selection covers both closed and ongoing projects and is based on projects selected in a preliminary review by another consultant but does not include the projects featured in the case studies. The 19 projects in total represent almost half of the 42 projects financed by ASAP1. It is important to note that outreach figures and other achievements at the time of publication are almost certain to have moved forward since the time of the review.

Notes/definitions

Women planned/reached

From last available supervision report/completion report or IFAD database as of December 2021. Refers to direct beneficiaries unless otherwise specified.

Gender analysis

References to climate change are noted if located, as well as observations on the extent to which the analysis appears to have informed design; otherwise they generally cover women's roles and constraints in agriculture and the CCA link is not explicit. Other analyses may have been carried out but were not reviewed.

Gender training

Training on gender rather than for women.

Gender-transformative approach

The use of GTA here does not necessarily conform to the IFAD definition in terms of scale; most of the GTAs identified below are implemented with less than 40 per cent of women. In this section, GTA refers rather to the nature of the approach.

All quotations are from the project design reports, unless otherwise specified.

APR, Bangladesh. Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project and Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection Project (HILIP-CALIP). 2012–2022.

Women planned/reached

48/52 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan (GAP)/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis: in depth analysis on distinct impacts of climate shocks on women, elderly and youth, reflected to a great extent in project actions.
- GAP.
- Gender training.
- Gender specialist; some challenges in retention.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁷⁴ and CCA

Outcome 1: women 16 per cent of those engaged in natural resource management and climate risk management activities.

Outcome 2: a project outcome is enhanced access of poor men and women to sustainable water bodies with increased production capacity and biodiversity. Women's membership and leadership of water user associations (Beel user groups) is an indicator.

Outcome 3: early warning for flash floods was based on feedback from women and men; village flood protection infrastructure.

Outcome 4: ultra-poor women benefitted from road infrastructure made climate resilient, including from employment generated by the construction and maintenance.

Outcome 5: women's employment on infrastructure construction and maintenance is promoted.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁷⁵/GTAs

SO1: women's participation in livelihoods training outnumbers men. Training linked to CCA (e.g. vetiver planting for slope stabilization during flash floods).

SO2: women leaders in water user groups; project is developing gender-responsive pro-poor adaptation pathways framework for the Haor Region.

SO3: infrastructure to reduce women's time for school, markets.

GTAs

- Training for women taxi drivers has been breaking gender stereotypes.⁷⁶
- Leadership training for women in groups.

74/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate-resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

75/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

76/ See <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/young-women-in-bangladesh-get-the-chance-to-learn-new-skills>.

APR, Bhutan. Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods Enhancement Programme (CARLEP). 2015–2025.

Women planned/reached

50/50 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis: brief reference to climate change, and participatory analysis includes women's needs for climate-smart villages, which informed project design.
- GAP.
- Gender-based budgeting.
- Training on climate-smart technologies and other interventions to enhance resilience to climate change.
- Gender and Knowledge Management Officer resigned in 2018 and managed by other technical experts.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁷⁷ and CCA

Outcome 1: FHHs are 42 per cent of households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices; FHHs are 46 per cent in climate-smart villages that are introducing (e.g. automatic drip irrigation systems, climate resilient crops, stress-tolerant seeds and permaculture). 40 per cent females accessing technologies that sequester carbon or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and 49 per cent of those trained on land management practices are women.

Outcome 2: 5,947 households supported with increased water availability/efficiency.

Outcome 3: climate information and communication technology via smartphone to limit damage by severe climate change related weather events, allowing farmers to prepare for floods/droughts.

Outcome 4: small infrastructure for climate impacts that work for women (e.g. dairy, poultry, vegetable processing, cooling and water).

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁷⁸/GTAs

SO1: women are 51 per cent of those accessing production inputs and/or technological packages and 40 per cent of groups managing productive infrastructure.

SO2: women are 56 per cent of those provided with climate information services; targets in place for women leaders in groups.

SO3: drudgery-reducing equipment (biogas, chaff cutters, milk chillers and solar driers).

GTAs

- Women leaders fostered in rural producers' organizations through leadership training to challenge gender norms (e.g. video of Bhutan's first female community-based artificial insemination technician developed and widely circulated to dispel gender stereotypes).

^{77/} Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

^{78/} SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

APR, Lao People's Democratic Republic. Southern Laos Food and Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme (FNML). 2013–2020.

Women planned/reached

50/50 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- GAP.
- Gender specialist and partnership with Lao Women's Union.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁷⁹ and CCA

Outcome 1: more women than men trained in climate-resilient production practices and/or technologies, and women comprise 43 per cent of household members supported to cope with the effects of climate change.

Outcome 2: women benefit from 65 drinking water supply schemes.

Outcome 3: climate-smart villages and participatory local adaptation investment plans include women's priorities and reduce climate-related risks.

Outcome 4: outcome objectives included climate-informed and gender-sensitive natural resource management systems and structures.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁸⁰/GTAs

SO1: women are 57 per cent of those trained in IGAs/business management but 26 per cent of those accessing credit.

SO2: participatory local adaptation investment plans ensure equal access to programme resources that address the vulnerabilities and adaptation needs of all ethnic groups. Lao Women's Union mobilized to ensure women's representation or parallel processes if needed.

SO3: household labour distribution reported as improved after household mentoring; access to labour-saving agricultural technologies and to drinking water.

GTAs

- Lao Women's Union supported to build capacities to pilot GAL and other household approaches.
- At community level, women were coached and mentored as leaders on the replication of successful CCA practices in approximately 90 villages.

79/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

80/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

LAC, Nicaragua. Project for Adaptation to Changes in Markets and the Effects of Climate Change (NICADAPTA). 2014–2020.

Women planned/reached

25/27 per cent direct beneficiaries (FHHS)

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis.
- GAP: intercultural strategy and detailed gender strategy in project design.
- Specialist in gender, youth and Indigenous Peoples.
- Gender training: logframe indicator on gender training; included central/local government officials and methodology to incorporate gender in the context of CCA for Afro-descendant peoples. Addressed gender/CCA, promoting technologies to save time and young women as CCA change agents.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁸¹ and CCA

Outcome 1: women accessed training and technologies via investment plans.

Outcome 2: women comprised 27 per cent of beneficiaries of investment plans for water management technologies.

Outcome 3: women comprised 27 per cent of agro-climatic/weather alert services and participated in CCA training.

Outcome 4: women benefitted from small-scale infrastructure through investment plans and also from water/post-harvest infrastructure.

Outcome 5: systematic gender good practice collection but unclear whether includes CCA.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁸²/GTAs

SO1: 25 out of 105 investment plans for value addition in climate-resilient cocoa and coffee chains dedicated to women and youth, reaching 422 women and 73 men. Criteria of gender equity in evaluating other investment plans. Women comprised 43 per cent of business training beneficiaries. Indicator on women's/youth access to value chains. However, women were less than half of those receiving climate services.

SO2: women comprised 44 per cent of management in organizations supported, women's leadership included in gender training. No significant change in female decision-making on some components of income (wage, crop income or transfers) or on land ownership.

SO3: emphasis on labour-saving technologies in GAP.

GTAs

- Extensive gender training to address gender stereotypes.

81/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

82/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

Revitalizing traditional foods to improve nutrition in the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Elsa Vidaurre is a young farmer in a small town in the Cintis Canyon located in Chuquisaca, Plurinational State of Bolivia. Elsa had to migrate to the city of Tarija as soon as she finished school, where she struggled to work and raise her small child alone. On a visit to her parents, she found out about an IFAD-supported programme, and decided to return to Villa Abecia and aim for a better quality of life. She joined a group of women and submitted their project to



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secure the necessary funding. Now she is in charge of a production line and dreams about studying food engineering. She is the president of a group of 10 women collecting traditional fruits and transforming them into various value-added products.

One of these products is a natural seasonal fruit juice, which they process and pack into sachets in a small factory built by the local government. This juice is being sold as a part of the school meal programme in Villa Abecia, and in nearby towns. Elsa and her group have managed to get the necessary licences with the help of the IFAD programme. All the women are mothers between the ages of 25 and 40, and most of them raise their children alone. The school meal programme is very important for them as it is a way to guarantee food security and nutrition, and Elsa says that her group is glad that they can feed children in their communities with the same nurture and care with which they feed their own. The programme has assisted over 30 projects promoted entirely by women in Elsa's region. Most of these women had migrated to the city when they were very young but have now returned to rural areas since they have the opportunity to make a better living.

Source: IFAD, The Latin America and Caribbean Advantage. Family farming – a critical success factor for resilient food security and nutrition (2019).

LAC, Paraguay. Rural Development: Project for improved family and indigenous production in northeast (PROMAFI). 2015–2024.

Women planned/reached

30/49 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis.
- GAP: gender, youth and multicultural strategy.
- Gender, youth and multicultural specialist.
- Gender training for implementing partners and beneficiaries.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁸³ and CCA

Outcome 1: target of 50 per cent rural facilitators trained in delivering climate information services to be women but percentage of women beneficiaries to receive geo-localized climate information unclear.

Outcome 2: water storage and irrigation in, for example, dairy and horticulture; proportion of women beneficiaries unclear but value chains likely to be suitable for women.

Outcome 3: see outcome 1.

Outcome 4: small-scale infrastructure for CCA via business plans.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁸⁴/GTAs

SO1: 30 per cent income increase for households but proportion of FHHs not in logframe. Target of 22 per cent female members of rural organizations trained, and 22 per cent of rural organizations developing business plans to be women only. Women to comprise 30 per cent of smallholders accessing credit and 50 per cent of those trained in financial literacy.

SO2: women's meaningful participation in mixed and women only organizations to be promoted and their decision-making capacities to be strengthened.

SO3: equitable household workloads to be promoted as well as day-care centre for children. Project activities to be organized at times suitable for women. Labour-reducing technologies eligible for inclusion in investment plans.

GTAs

- Leadership training for women.

83/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

84/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

LAC, El Salvador. National Programme of Rural Economic Transformation for Living Well (Rural Adelante). 2019–2024.

Women planned/reached

40/55 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan (GAP)/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis for each value chain.
- GAP: gender, youth and social inclusion strategy.
- Social inclusion specialist.
- Training: guidance developed for gender and social integration in project components, training on substantive equality⁸⁵ and masculinities; 180 organizations at all levels to be trained in gender and social inclusion.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁸⁶ and CCA

Outcome 1: target of 40 per cent women trained in natural resource management activities and climate risk management and 40 per cent of household members supported to address the impacts of climate change.

Outcome 2: not located.

Outcome 3: mobile-based weather services to help smallholders plan and mitigate risks, but it is not clear how many women were direct beneficiaries or if women's needs were taken into account.

Outcome 4: provision for productive infrastructure but benefits to women not clear.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁸⁷/GTAs

SO1: overall target that women's groups are to be 40 per cent of those receiving technical training and support for community savings and credit

groups, reaching around 500 women. More than 20 productive sub-projects for women, as well as youth and Indigenous Peoples financed. Over 40 organizational development plans developed with affirmative actions for women and youth, such as technical assistance in innovative technologies for agricultural production and market access. The handicrafts value chain was chosen as many women are engaged in it.

SO2: 500 representatives of organizations for women (50 per cent), youth and Indigenous Peoples to be trained in public policy engagement, and regional fora for women and Indigenous Peoples are being established. In the east, a women's roundtable maintains dialogue with municipalities and institutions to position the needs of rural women; roundtable members have developed an action plan. Around 700 women leaders were trained in leadership to support them to help them have a voice in the community and position themselves as leaders. Adoption of closing gender gaps methodology in rural organizations. Provision for women to sit on the approval committee of business plans to be financed. Provision for policy engagement in support of rural women. Special efforts to ensure women and youth in free, prior and informed consent consultations.

SO3: women point out that, in order to participate, most of them have had to negotiate or rethink childcare.

GTAs

- Leadership training for women.
- Women's roundtable forum.

85/ A holistic view of equality promoted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: instead of considering equality only in formal and legalistic terms, CEDAW requires that their actual impact and effect also be considered.

86/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

87/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

NEN, Kyrgyzstan Livestock and Market Development Programme II (LMDPII). 2014–2024.

Women planned/reached

50/51 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis: a climate vulnerability assessment was carried out, which identified women as being among the most vulnerable in the programme areas, in particular, FHHs, as well as women's strong interest in increasing and climate-proofing IGAs.
- GAP.
- Implementation partner for community mobilization and gender.
- Extensive training in gender.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁸⁸ and CCA

Outcome 1: climate risk mitigation pasture and animal health management plans incorporated adaptation needs and priorities of the poor and women. Women benefit from livestock management training as CCA activity. Lower women's participation in CCA training than other types of training.

Outcome 2: small-scale drip irrigation systems, obtained through grants improve water use efficiencies but not clear to what extent women opt for these.

Outcome 3 Climate risk-mitigation pasture and animal health management plans incorporating needs and priorities of poor and women and plans for them to be consulted. Early warning system but unclear to what extent women use them or their priorities are reflected.

Outcome 4: women were 50 per cent of those gaining access to climate resilient and environmentally sound infrastructure (e.g. water, shelter, roads).

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁸⁹/GTAs

SO1: the dairy value chain was targeted as women were engaged and there was market demand. To combat rising temperatures, the project has supported milk collection and cooling centres and, given mobility constraints faced by women, it supports women's groups to set up more accessible climate-resilient small-scale milk processing facilities.

Women were 95 per cent of those trained in livestock management and 18 per cent of trainees in pasture management/animal health and breeding. FHHs had an overall 43 per cent increase in household income. 40 per cent of women benefitted from matching grant investments, 12 rural producers' organizations were led by women and 43 per cent of new jobs created benefitted women.

SO2: women members of pasture committees were 30 per cent and contributed to development of community pasture management plans. Women's leadership training.

SO3: milk collection centres enabled women to save from four to five hours a day.

GTAs

- Leadership training for women.

88/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

89/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

NEN, Moldova. Rural Resilience Project (RRP).

Women planned/reached

- 30/39 per cent direct beneficiaries.
- Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other
- Gender analysis later, in 2021.
- GAP.
- Gender specialist.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁹⁰ and CCA

Outcome 1: women are 54 per cent of beneficiaries of land restoration (e.g. shelterbelts and grasslands).

Outcome 2: rainwater harvesting ponds are provided and 40 per cent women beneficiaries of irrigation systems.

Outcome 3: ASAP grants target most vulnerable including women.

Outcome 4: new/existing rural infrastructure to be protected from climate events but benefits to women unclear.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁹¹/GTAs

SO1: matching grants for women's businesses for innovation and adaptation technologies to increase/diversify production, processing and IGAs. Technical support for women's business development plans, and women comprise 52 per cent of financial literacy training participants.

GTAs

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90/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

91/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

NEN, Sudan. Integrated Rural Development Project (BIRDP). 2008–2019.

Women planned/reached

50/44 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis.
- Training: an entire sub-component is dedicated to gender sensitization and another to training of local and state staff on community development and gender. A young professionals programme was instrumental in raising awareness of increasing women's participation (424 female and 50 male young professionals).
- Project management adopted a participatory and gender-sensitive approach to identification of community needs and implementation.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁹² and CCA

Outcome 1: one of the project objectives was to develop the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in environmentally sound, socially and gender equitable development initiatives. Over 370 climate-resilient community village plans were developed in a participatory way that included women. Women constituted on average 64 per cent of beneficiaries in different extension and training programmes; project exceeded target of 120,000 persons trained in, inter alia, natural resource management, developing local adaptation plans for action.

Outcome 2: 40 per cent of pastoralists reporting secure access and user rights to water were women. A third of water management committees were women. Over 3,700 hectares of farmland under water-related infrastructure was constructed/rehabilitated, but benefits to women unclear.

Outcome 3: farmer capacity development aimed to increase awareness of climate risk management. Tenure security achieved for women (57 per cent) as well as men.

Outcome 4: considerable investment in water management infrastructure for production as well as domestic use.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁹³/GTAs

SO1: facilitated women's access to saving and credit groups and literacy programmes, and the vast majority of borrowers were women, with a higher repayment rate than men. Women and men were trained in financial management.

SO2: after project support, women actively participated in community meetings, and assumed leadership positions in community development committees (a third of leaders were women and networks. One third of water management and procurement committees were women.

SO3: a sub-component of the natural resource management component was dedicated to the development of domestic water supply, thereby impacting on women's workload and drudgery: target of 30 minutes a day per household to fetch water was achieved.

GTAs

The GAL approach contributed significantly to improving household food and nutrition security and women's status as well as domestic decision-making.

The process of establishing the natural resources governance framework created dynamic process of cooperation among all actors, leading to formal recognition of women's right to access land and water.

92/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

93/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

Climate-resilient cereal farmers in Kenya



@IFAD/Edward Echwalu

“Before the programme started, we just planted and hoped for what God would give us; now we know – for sure – we will get more food.” Victoria Muteti, Kenya.

Victoria Muteti, a widowed farmer from Kenya’s Makueni County, has many reasons to be satisfied. In January 2020, she harvested more than 2,500 kg of sorghum, far more than the 1,000 kg she had harvested in 2019. Her production of green grams rose too, from 316 kg in 2019 to 360 kg in January 2020. In the previous year, she had harvested only 90 kg of each. She was able to sell part of her harvest, earning about US\$800.

These gains could not have come too soon for Victoria. Luckily, she was able to keep farming during the COVID 19 pandemic while observing all the necessary social distancing measures, and the extra income she has made over the last two years has helped her improve her nutrition along with many other facets of her life. Victoria owes these successes to her participation in an e-voucher initiative she enrolled in under a programme implemented by the Government of Kenya and jointly funded with the European Union and IFAD. As part of the e-voucher initiative, Victoria received certified seeds and post-harvest items, along with training in good agricultural practices. She learned new ways to till her land and could even access soil ripping services, rendered by conservation agriculture service providers also linked to the e-voucher platform, which preserve the land and improve water storage capacity.

Victoria’s nutrition and food security improved, too. Before she joined the programme, she depended on government assistance between each harvest. Now she has a surplus of crops to sell and can earn an income. Her diet has also been enriched. She can now eat some of the sorghum she grows, instead of saving it all for her chickens. She has also invested part of her income in a poultry house and a cow, which will further fortify her diet and bring additional revenue. Victoria also used part of her income to pay the school fees for her four children.

ESA, Ethiopia. Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme II (PASIDPII). 2016–2024.

Women planned/reached

40/25 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis.
- GAP.
- Gender specialist.
- Training on gender mainstreaming for local implementation partners and farmer organizations.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁹⁴ and CCA

Outcome 1: women targeted for support in CSA practices such as agroforestry, improved forage development, conservation agriculture and integrated soil fertility practices but participation currently at 17 per cent.

Outcome 2: women's voice in more sustainable irrigation improvement promoted through membership in water user associations decision-making. Alternative water sources promoted for male/female beneficiaries of agroforestry support. FHHs to be 20 per cent of sustainable irrigation infrastructure.

Outcome 3: women comprise 40 per cent of individuals engaged in natural resource management and climate risk management activities. Piloting a gender-responsive index-based drought insurance product for cereals farmers, based on separate focus groups for women and men.

Outcome 4: rehabilitated roads and post-harvest storage facilities provided but benefits to women are unclear.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁹⁵/GTAs

SO1: women comprise 40 per cent of financial literacy training so far, and 45 per cent of rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages. Challenging to meet some targets (e.g. cooperative committees only have 19 per cent women against a target of 30 per cent). Similarly, women's participation in training for cooperative members on agribusiness, market access and rural finance is lower than in other training (6 per cent compared to 57 per cent for overall training). Unemployed women were trained and engaged in the production of clean cook stoves, which were distributed to communities.

SO2: considering feasibility of piloting equitable household decision-making programme. Encourage women to join decision-making bodies of water user associations and farmer organizations. The share of women in leadership committees of water user associations and water management committees is close to the 30 per cent target (29 per cent). Leadership training for over 250 female FO members.

SO3: special support to over 20,000 FHHs with energy saving cook stoves and solar lanterns, reducing time required to fetch fuel.

GTAs

- Implementation of the Gender Model Family with over 800 households so far, a transformative approach to improve joint decision-making and promote equitable workloads in households.

94/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

95/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

ESA, Malawi. Programme for Rural Irrigation Development (PRIDE). 2015–2024.

Women planned/reached

30/38 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis.
- GAP: gender and targeting strategy.
- Gender specialist.
- Training: gender training plus staff training on household approaches for more equitable household decision-making. Innovative approaches for gender sensitization, include theatre for development and community dialogues.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁹⁶ and CCA

Outcome 1: women were 30 per cent of those reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies/practices, and 34 per cent of those trained on good agricultural practices on rainfed/irrigated land.

Outcome 2: project has irrigation focus but benefits to women are unclear.

Outcome 3: females comprise 38 per cent of smallholder household members supported in coping with the effects of climate change.

Outcome 4: mainly irrigation infrastructure (see outcome 2).

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives⁹⁷/GTAs

SO1: indicators include rural producers organizations reporting an increase in sales, disaggregated by those with women in leadership positions, but no data in MTR logframe.

SO2: promotion of women's land and rights through outreach to sensitize women; indicator of persons whose ownership or user rights over natural resources have been registered in national cadastres and/or geographic information management systems but no data in logframe. Communication strategies to share climate information, including to women, was circulated through farmer field schools and water user associations. Increase of women's participation and ability to make decisions regarding water use reported.

SO3: improved cookstoves have led to reduction of drudgery for women and girls.

GTAs

- Implements gender-responsive household-level behavioural change methodologies to promote more equitable household decision-making and benefit distribution.
- Increased women's land tenure security.

96/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

97/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

ESA, Mozambique. Pro-Poor Value Chain Development Project in the Maputo and Limpopo Corridors (PROSUL). 2012–2020.

Women planned/reached

50/65 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis for each value chain, but weak in the primary study looking at climate change and the three value chains.⁹⁸
- GAP for each value chain, but not very differentiated between them.
- Gender specialist.
- Training.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes⁹⁹ and CCA

Outcome 1: women comprised 39 per cent of trainees in good management practices of natural resources focusing on grazing areas and water points.

Outcome 2: extensive irrigation and water infrastructure constructed but benefits to women not clear.

Outcome 3: women comprised 51 per cent of individuals engaged in natural resource management and climate risk management activities

Outcome 4: women dominated in groups managing resilient infrastructure for horticulture.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives¹⁰⁰/GTAs

SO1: women dominated two out of three value chains (cassava/horticulture), and indeed they were chosen in order to ensure women's engagement as women are already active and these value chains have low entry thresholds. Over 60 per cent of those trained in production practices/technologies, coaching and leadership in these two value chains were women, while they comprised 34 per cent of the red meat value chain. Women were 80 per cent of savings/credit groups.

SO2: women comprised 49 per cent of beneficiaries whose ownership/user rights over natural resources were registered in national cadastres and/or geographic information management systems. Provided technical support to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Gender Strategy (See GTAs).

SO3: payment of school fees. Contributed to a reduction in the average time that women spent on cassava plots.

GTAs

- household mentoring through GAL, a household-level behavioural change methodology, tackled entrenched gender norms to promote more equitable decision-making and benefits in the home.

98/ IFAD, *IFAD's ASAP Gender Assessment and Learning Review. Final Report* (2018).

99/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

100/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

Climate-resilient cereal farmers in Kenya



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In the Gambia, the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development (NEMA) Project supported communities to get their land registered through written agreement between youth kafos (traditional village groups), traditional and government authorities. Community gardens have now become a model of sustainable small-scale agriculture in the country, with multiple benefits such as job creation. Investment in community vegetable gardens has mobilized local communities and created jobs. Villagers, especially women, are encouraged to work on specially reserved spaces to cultivate their own crops. Farmers' education is encouraged through gardens that are spaces for community exchanges and knowledge sharing. Several gardens also offer formal training through farmer field schools, where students learn about crop production, pest management, business management and rural entrepreneurship. Children's education is promoted through families now being able to afford to send their children to school. Some IFAD-supported gardens also supply crops to local schools, encouraging class attendance and improving nutrition.

WCA, The Gambia. National Agricultural Land and Water Management (NEMA)/NEMA Chosso. 2012–2020.

Women planned/reached

50/51 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis.
- Gender focal point and gender expertise accessed through partnership – see below.
- GAP.
- Training: project staff trained in gender.
- Other:
 - Primarily targets women and youth based on analysis of rice and other farming roles
 - Only service providers with proven capacity in working with women. and all had gender mainstreaming responsibilities in their terms of reference
 - Gender-specific project objectives: increasing annual average income of women growing rice in irrigated tidal areas and increasing annual average income of women growing vegetables.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes¹⁰¹ and CCA

Outcome 1: women were 51 per cent of smallholder household members supported in coping with the effects of climate change through a wide range of interventions, including planting of climate resilient indigenous species and mangrove restoration.

Outcome 2: year-round water supply for women (e.g. infrastructure for tidal schemes in freshwater ecologies and solar powered boreholes and water reticulation systems in vegetable gardens). Community watershed management measures.

Outcome 3: see other entries, which had dramatically improved resilience to climate related risks.

Outcome 4: all investments in (clean) infrastructure for rice and vegetable production largely benefited women and youth.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives¹⁰²/GTAs

SO1: women targeted through women and vegetables farmer organizations (kafos) as these institutions facilitate independent access to land, farm equipment, credit and training for members. Women with kitchen gardens and in farmer organizations represent more than 80 per cent of those trained in production practices and technologies. Substantial increase in incomes and physical/financial assets owned by rural poor women. 205 per cent, 38 per cent and 120 per cent over-achievement of income increase targets for from rainfed lowland rice, irrigated tidal rice and vegetables respectively.

SO2: a national women producers apex cooperative was formed and strengthened to influence policy dialogue; farmer organizations were linked to a national consortium of farmers for continued support. Beneficiaries formed into village farmer associations of equal numbers of women and men. Separate women's sessions when soliciting opinions and identifying needs. Women were directly consulted in planning and implementation. Women accounted for over 90 per cent of a functional literacy programme, implemented with the National Women Farmers Association and whose participants in turn taught literacy and CCA. Supported gender integration in analysis of National Rice Development Strategy. 144 rural farmer organizations had women in leadership positions.

SO3: analysis of the 40 financed investments show they contributed to reducing drudgery through access to climate-resilient technologies (e.g. tractor services and food processing).

GTAs

- Support for women's leadership in FOs.

101/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

102/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

WCA, Ghana. Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP). 2014–2022.

Women planned/reached

50/40 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis: has a focus on the importance of understanding differentiated CCA vulnerabilities for women and youth.
- GAP.
- Gender specialist: this function was later assigned to the value chains specialist with gender experience, and the move is considered successful.
- Training: in partnership with government Women in Agriculture Directorate at district level to build capacities of farmer organizations in gender in agriculture and CSA.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes¹⁰³ and CCA

Outcome 1: women comprise 43 per cent of conservation agriculture support; project set target of 50 per cent women for adaptative trials and demonstrations of modern conservation agriculture and water-efficient irrigation techniques.

Outcome 2: implementation agreement with Ghana Irrigation Development Authority to establish and build the capacities of 7 water user associations; 300 (198 male, 102 female) farmers trained in the formation and functioning of water user associations. Benefits to women unclear in indicators for persons reporting improved water management practices and related to water efficiency for households and production (see outcome 1).

Outcome 3: weather stations provided but benefits to women unclear. Processing facilities contribute to protecting from weather-related losses. Good agricultural practices training help reduce risks over time.

Outcome 4: cluster of women's processing groups provided with climate-friendly gari¹⁰⁴ processing facility. Road and value chain infrastructure provision/upgrading but benefits to women are unclear.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives¹⁰⁵/GTAs

SO1: women are 40 per cent of farmer organizations, which are conduits for technical support and linked to village savings and loans associations, in turn based on a gender-responsive model of CARE International. Women comprise 49 per cent of those trained in production practices/technologies.

SO2: see GTAs. GAP at design stage provides for women's leadership training in farmer organizations. Information campaigns to reinforce women's leadership.

SO3: processing facilities likely to contribute to reducing time burden/workload of women, and GAL to more equitable intra-household workload distribution.

GTAs

- Behavioural change methodologies (specifically GAL) to be implemented in two districts.

103/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

104/ Granulated cassava.

105/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.

WCA, Nigeria. Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in the Savannah Belt (CASP). 2015–2021.

Women planned/reached

40/37 per cent direct beneficiaries.

Gender analysis/gender action plan/gender training/gender expertise/other

- Gender analysis: notes that climate change impacts will be particularly severe for rural youth and women due to women's limited access to resources, fewer opportunities for education and training, and less decision-making power in society and in the home. Women were separately consulted in the participatory climate change vulnerability mapping process. Gender was integrated into analysis of other technical areas at design.
- Gender specialist: gender officers appointed at central and local levels.
- Training: extensive training of women and men at various project levels.
- Other:
 - Targeting strategy recognized gender differences in attitude to risk and women's frequent preference for longer-term strategies, and that they may be more stable in the community in the face of out-migration
 - Focus on women trainers, and suitable time and venue for women
 - Commitment to enhancing women's role as seed custodians.

Gender aligned with ASAP outcomes¹⁰⁶ and CCA

Outcome 1: indicator of 225,000 hectares of land managed under climate-resilient practices was to have been disaggregated by sex of household head but breakdown was not located in project completion report. Women separately consulted in developing participatory land use plans. Women also benefited from a range of soil and water technologies (e.g. half-moon and zai pits, tube wells and erosion control measures).

Outcome 2: see outcome 1.

Outcome 3: women comprised 18 per cent of individual beneficiaries engaged in climate risk management

activities. Early warning system which forecasts seasonal rainfall, but benefits to women unclear. Project target that women comprise at least 40 per cent of farmers trained in climate risk management through farmer field schools and farmer business schools.

Outcome 4: women benefitted from new/existing rural road infrastructure protected from climate events; they were engaged in infrastructure development, from needs identification to maintenance.

Alignment with IFAD Gender Policy strategic objectives¹⁰⁷/GTAs

SO1: all savings and credit groups had women in leadership positions. Women's net income increased, but no comparison with baseline and with male income was located. Overall, the 30 per cent net income increase target for beneficiaries was met. However, despite reasonable quantitative participation of women in the participatory rural appraisal, women's priorities were not included in the activities for fund allocation.

SO2: over 660 women-only community development organizations formed, exceeding the target; they were key entry points for having a voice in community development plans/participatory land use plan development and obtaining related investment from the project, as well as training in CSA. Achieved 30 per cent of target for marketing groups with women in leadership positions, but just 4 per cent of producer and enterprise groups had women in leadership positions. Initial target of evidence-based policy advocacy of the economic and climate benefits of realizing women's potential, but not mentioned in completion report.

SO3: project targets at design for women's minimum participation in key groups.

GTAs






- GAL, a gender-responsive behavioural change methodology, implemented to promote gender-sensitive value chains with a climate change lens.

106/ Outcome 1: Improved land management and gender-sensitive climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Outcome 2: Increased availability of water and efficiency of water use for smallholder agriculture production and processing. Outcome 3: Increased human capacity to manage short-term and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters. Outcome 4: Rural infrastructure made climate resilient. Outcome 5: Knowledge on climate-smart smallholder agriculture documented and disseminated.

107/ SO1: economic empowerment, SO2: voice/decision-making, SO3: equitable workloads/benefits.



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