

September 23, 2013

Approval by mail: CTF grant funding to finance gender assessments on CTF projects being implemented through EBRD in Turkey

Dear CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committee Members:

Following up on the decisions of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees in November 2012, calling for the **“harness[ing of] capacity in the MDBs and at the country level to strengthen CIF plans and programs through technical approaches that link gender to climate change and specific sectors ”**, EBRD is proposing to take steps to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into CTF projects. However, EBRD policy (The Strategic Gender Initiative (SGI) <http://www.ebrd.com/pages/about/principles/gender/plan.shtml>) mandates EBRD to work predominantly within a pre-defined group of regions where the gender gaps have been identified as greatest, at least over the short term (3 years). The SGI specifically sets out the need for “initial efforts to develop projects that primarily target the countries where the preliminary gap analysis has shown that gender challenges are greatest: these are judged to be Central Asia, Turkey and the SEMED Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region, i.e. Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco countries.” As a result, CTF district heating projects in Turkey do not fall within the priority regions identified by the Bank or the key focus areas of engagement (Access to Finance; Access to Services; and Access to Skills and Employment) identified under the SGI).

EBRD is requesting USD 160,000 in CTF grant funding to recruit consultants to carry out gender assessments on CTF projects in Turkey. The gender assessments would be conducted in FY13/14. Terms of Reference for the work to be undertaken are attached.

While EBRD can provide the staffing to manage the consultants under the proposed assignments, it is currently limited in its ability to finance gender assessments and will require additional resources for external consultancies and travel costs. Funding for this request would be accounted for within the existing CTF country allocations. Nevertheless, the funding for these activities would be provided as a special initiative, to be implemented by EBRD, through the CIF Administrative Budget. As these activities were not envisaged when each investment plan was endorsed, EBRD will need to discuss the integration of these activities into the projects and work with the countries to revise the proposed use of their country allocations to accommodate this new activity.

The CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees are requested to approve the following decision:

The CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees approves USD 160,000 in CTF grant funding, to be accounted for within the endorsed CTF indicative envelope for the investment plan, to finance gender assessments on CTF projects being implemented through EBRD in Turkey. Funds will be provided through a special initiative under the CIF Administrative Budget.

If we do not receive an objection to this proposed decision by close of business on October 7, 2013 the decision will be approved.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bliss-Guest
Climate Investment Funds, Program Manager
CIF Administrative Unit
1818 H Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
www.climateinvestmentfunds.org