



Gender and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience

Stacy Alboher

PPCR Pilot Countries Meeting

Cape Town, June 23, 2011



When you hear “gender,”
what comes to mind?

Defining gender

- Sex: differences of a strictly biological nature between men and women.
- Gender: the set of social, cultural, political, legal and economic characteristics socially allocated as a function of sex from birth onwards.
- Implications?
 - Gender-based, socially-ascribed characteristics determine the distribution of power within a society
 - We cannot speak of women or men as universal beings
 - We can change them

Gender equality

- NOT only about women
- But: promoting gender equality often requires a particular focus on women in order to address historical and existing inequalities
- However, this does not preclude activities that address men's specific needs, where doing so will contribute to gender equality.

Why do we care?

- Gender targeting makes programs cost-effective by directing resources to actual need & demand
- Women's active engagement in project management has been linked to better project and programme outcomes
- Investing in women and girls is considered a key breakthrough strategy for achieving the MDGs
- CIF Trust Fund Committees and Sub-committees are increasingly recognizing and demanding attention to gender issues within CIF investment plans and projects

PPCR situation analysis

Reviewed 6 approved SPCRs and 5 SPCRs submitted for approval this week: all have some mention of gender issues

- Sections on links between gender and climate change
- Planned studies to uncover linkages between gender and climate change
- Specific activities/targets related to gender equality/women's empowerment
- Reference collaboration with relevant women's or social ministries/units
- Sex-disaggregated indicators

First programme to be operationalized under the SCF - did not include any gender considerations in its original design or operational principles

Nonetheless, many proposals have demonstrated attention to the gender dimensions of their plans.

Linkages sections

- Samoa

Planned studies

- Samoa
- Grenada

Sex-disaggregated indicators

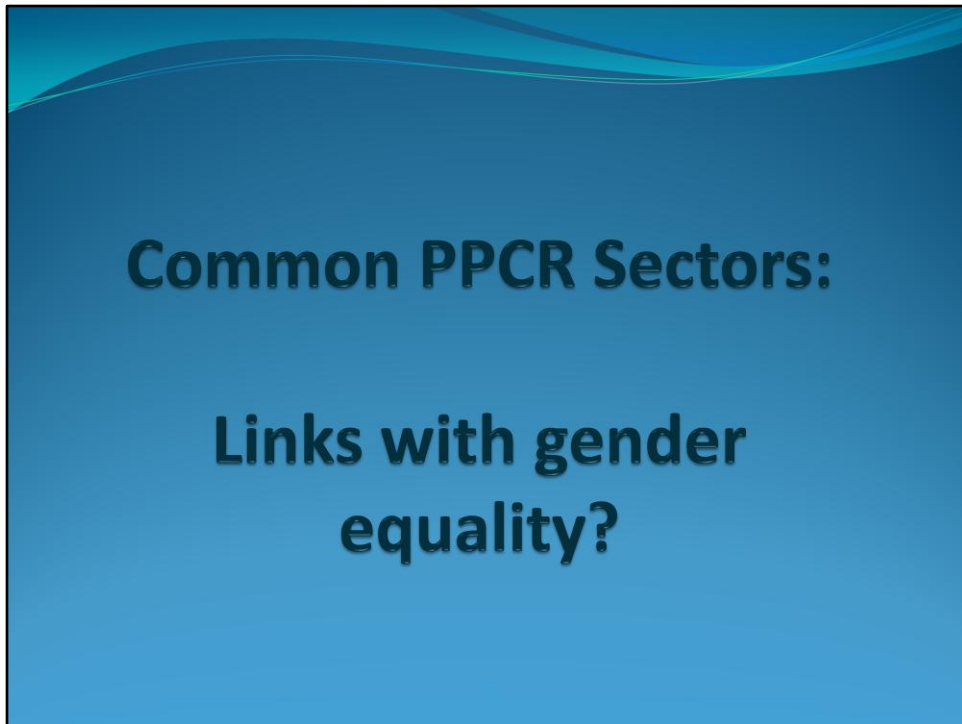
- Grenada
- Bangladesh
- Tajikistan
- Nepal

Activities/targets

- Tajikistan: *Improved understanding of gender-specific implications of climate change among stakeholders and implementers of activities (indicator)*

Women's ministries

- Niger
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Common PPCR Sectors:

Links with gender equality?

PPCR is unique in that the linkages and entry points for adaptation programs are generally more easily apparent.

Also unique in that activities under the PPCR cover a very wide range of sectors

Reviewed the SPCRs submitted to date and identified some of the most common sectors addressed; will touch specifically on some of these, including agriculture and food security; DRR; water resources management; health and coastal zone management.

Of course, there are many others, including tourism, health, data management, etc. – all of which include important gender dimensions.

Not meant to be an all-encompassing explanation, but hope to touch on a few main points from where we can spark a discussion

Agriculture and food security

- Women and men as agricultural agents
- Land rights, access to credit, appropriate technology
- Migration
- Food production, access and utilization
- SPCR example: Cambodia



- Women and men as agricultural agents
 - Women in developing countries produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food, but rarely regarded as farmers and economic agents
 - women farmers almost always are involved in auxiliary farming activities that are overlooked or not acknowledged as valued farming work. These are often seen as "women's work" but in effect are critical farming chores such as weeding, pest control, harvesting, collecting seeds, storing seeds, hoeing, picking, cooking the family meals, making clothes, caring for the children, fetching water, finding sources of fuel, etc.
 - Land rights, access to credit, appropriate technology
 - Men also play a crucial role in food production, but
 - Face lesser constraints
 - Are more likely to have access to productive resources such as land, credit and extension services
 - It is easier for men to leave their farms in search of employment elsewhere, leaving women behind to struggle to feed their families and make ends meet.
 - In many cases women have diminished assets and resources to help them plan for and potentially avert the next crisis.
 - In many rural families women are in fact heads of the household, and the main farmers. This is true particularly where men migrate into the urban areas or abroad looking for work rural women often engage in farming activities and are knowledgeable about what the problems are and often have their own insights and ideas of how to solve the problems they encounter
 - Women often do not have the appropriate technology, tools and inputs for farming productively. Studies in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia showed that due to differential control over resources, when men and women grew the same crop on individual plots, women were at a disadvantage. Most inputs, such as labour and fertilizer, went to the men's plots. Some experts estimate that if women had the same inputs as men, household agricultural output in sub-Saharan Africa could increase between 10 to 20 percent.
 - Food production, access and utilization
 - Women usually bear the brunt of food insecurity at household level
 - Women are responsible for nutrition in the majority of homes
- SPCR example: Cambodia
- It is usual for men to do the large-scale, mechanized cropping of commercial crops, while women generally work on a smaller scale, more traditional ways of growing food for their families and the local market.
 - Women will be trained for specific activities for livelihood such as the introduction of climate-resilient farming and irrigation practices, improved pest and disease management; and better access to credit for input and output marketing, and investments.

Disaster risk reduction

- Matter of life and death
- Post-disaster impacts
- Economic impacts
- SPCR examples; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Nepal



- Matter of life and death
 - In the Bangladesh cyclone and flood of 1991, among women aged 20-44, the death rate was 71 per 1000, compared to 15 per 1000 for men. Warning information was transmitted between men in public spaces, but rarely communicated to the rest of the family. Also, women were not allowed to leave the houses without a male relative, and many perished waiting for their relatives to return home and take them to a safe place.
 - London School of Economics analyzed disasters in 141 countries -decisive evidence that gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights. When women's rights are not protected, more women than men will die from disasters. The study also found the opposite to be true: in societies where women and men enjoy equal rights, disasters kill the same number of women and men
 - In the wake of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, the town of La Masica reported no deaths in comparison to other nearby communities affected by the disaster. This was attributed to the fact that women had been trained just six months before to manage the early warning system and to ensure a safe evacuation.
- Post-disaster impacts
 - Shelters – expose women to rape, indignity
 - High mortality rates of mothers/women/spouses during result in increase: numbers of orphans and mortality rates; early marriages for young girls (new spouses) causing drop out of school; trafficking and prostitution which increase exposure to HIV/AIDS
- Economic impacts
 - More women than men work in the informal sector and in small enterprises. These sectors are often the worst hit and least able to recover from the effects of disasters, due to lack of capital, and limited access to credit and information, among other obstacles
- Need to address root causes of vulnerability that include human, economic, social, environmental and physical factors in a gender sensitive way
- SPCR example: St. Vincent and the Grenadines
 - Expected result: **Gender sensitive disaster risk management designed and implemented**
 - *Considerations of gender and age must be disaggregated to understand that vulnerable communities and individuals suffer disproportionately higher losses, injuries and damages from both natural and anthropogenic hazards*
 - **Measures:** *Gender-sensitive Shelter Management Policy is operational, implemented and a number of shelters refurbished; publications on gender-specific concerns for preparedness and response to the impacts of climate hazards; gender issues incorporated into guidelines and legislation.*
- Nepal
 - The establishment of community based early warning systems will be focused initially in targeted areas that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, with special attention given to areas of importance for women, indigenous communities and youth
 - Activities will focus on the installation of real-time hydro-meteorological infrastructure, the development of weather/flood forecasting and information systems, the establishment of early warning systems for priority vulnerable communities, and the creation of climate risk insurance/finance programs for vulnerable communities

Water resources management

- Different needs, knowledge for water consumption and production
- Participation and consultation
- Costs, private sector involvement
- Examples: Philippines, Cambodia



Participation and consultation

Despite the growing recognition of the different needs of women as users of water for consumption and production, their participation in community water management associations is limited or lower than men's for a variety of social and institutional reasons. Formal membership is often restricted to those who legally own irrigated land, or are household-heads, or sometimes a combination of both factors.

Since these categories largely apply to men, women farmers are not considered eligible for membership although in many cases they are cultivating and managing land in the absence of men who have migrated.

Costs

While it is desirable for water supply to be paid for, it is also important to take into account people's ability to pay. Women's interests and gender relations are often overlooked. If charges for domestic water supply have to be paid, both men and women should be involved in determining the rates. Even though women often do not have control over cash, they are still expected to pay for water and sanitation, more than men, because they are the main users and it is considered their responsibility. A gender and social equity analysis of demands is required.

Private sector

Privatisation of water supply services can have serious negative impacts on the service levels of poor households, and in particular of female-headed households. This is due to the fact that:

- To maximise the returns on invested capital, private companies might prefer to invest in areas that are economically better off and ignore poor neighbourhoods and illegal settlements in particular.
- An increase in water tariffs can lead to the discontinuation of services to poor households. Home-grown vegetable gardens, which often supplement women's income and households diet, are also affected when water user rates are increased.
- Privatisation schemes that grant companies the exclusive right to provide drinking water services severely affect community drinking water systems, where women's contribution in terms of labour is significant. It is a form of expropriation of water sources in periurban and rural communities.
- markets may not focus on rural areas, with impact on female-headed households, farming, jobs, income, and diet

Efficiency and effectiveness

Involving both women and men in integrated water resources initiatives can increase project effectiveness and efficiency. Participation by both women and men improves project performance and improves the likelihood of

Adopting a gender approach

Gender aspects need to be taken into account at all stages of a project:

- Conceptualization
- Planning
- Implementation
- Training programs
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Benefit-sharing mechanisms

Things to consider when designing PPCR programs

- Political will is essential : Seek high-level buy-in
- Joint missions, stakeholder consultations and program staff are critical: include gender expertise
- Ensure that technical trainings target both women and men
- Collect sex-disaggregated data
- Engage women, men and civil society



Discussion questions

How can the incorporation of a gender perspective help strengthen the effectiveness of adaptation projects and programs?

What are some specific gendered issues relating to PPCR programs in your countries? What are the best approaches to address them?

What tools/resources would you need in order to facilitate these efforts?



Thank you!

Stacy Alboher
stacy.alboher@undp.org

For additional information:
www.gender-climate.org
www.undp.org/women