



Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam



ALL HANDS ON DECK.

PLACING AFRICA AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH'S GENDER TRANSFORMATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION AT THE HEART OF THE GLOBAL STOCK-TAKE.

A roadmap to sustainable solutions in Gender Transformation and Social Inclusion for Climate Vulnerable Regions.



1. FOR THE LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND TO BE FIT-FOR-PURPOSE, ITS SET UP AND EVOLUTION OF ITS OPERATIONALIZATION MUST FAVOUR THE GLOBAL SOUTH'S CLIMATE MARGINALIZED DEMOGRAPHICS.

For Africa, and more especially low-income countries (LICs), the urgency to address economic and non-economic loss and damage is imperative. Climatic hazards witnessed at global scale have demonstrated that regions with considerable development constraints have significant vulnerability to climate change impacts, with a substantial proportion of Africa's population exposed to acute food insecurity and water scarcity, among other consequences. It is important to underscore that with only 7 years remaining for meeting the ambition outlined in Agenda 2030, for developing economies on the African continent, the effects of climate change have notably impacted efforts by developing economies to meet sustainable development goals (SDGs). Notably, even if global warming remains below the 1.5°C target, least developed countries will continue to experience the effects of loss and damage[1].

This year's 4th Transitional Committee (TC4) deliberations witnessed a stalemate when no consensus could be reached on the modalities of the Loss and Damage Fund. Civil society actors demonstrated a consolidated push for the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund as an independent structure outside of the World Bank. They further proactively advocated for a community access window that would see the UNFCCC process herald an approach that seeks to shift power from donor-led structures towards local actors and marginalised communities. The outcomes of the 5th Transitional Committee (TC5) meeting (convened as an extraordinary meeting) leave LICs and developing countries to contend with continued systemic inequalities in the global climate finance landscape. TC5 established a set of conditionalities to implementation mechanisms, left an array of governance structures undefined and proposed that the L&D facility sits within the World Bank as an interim measure. As the Bank's leadership is appointed de facto by the United States, this model will likely result in unequal influence by donor countries over the operations of the fund at the expense of developing countries. Conspicuously, the United States' unfavourable posture on accountability for emissions that contribute to loss and damage, largely in the global south, quarries its pronouncements and commitments to equitable partnerships on gender equality and localization in the region. These bureaucratic structures threaten the integral need to ensure that the fund fully considers the lived experiences and differed contexts of women and other marginalized demographics in the Global South.

Actors in the Global South must continue to advocate for fair benefit ratios for climate demographics especially in vulnerable regions. They need to strengthen their calls to do away with uncertainty and ambiguity, specifically as it relates to the role of Women's Rights Organisations in the governance structure of the Loss and Damage Fund, and for the deliberate articulation of gender responsive mechanisms in its implementation.

[1] <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/17490IIED.pdf>

While the recently concluded Africa Climate Summit makes assertions on the operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund for Africa[2], it does not explicitly highlight the concerted repatriations that are owed to Africa's climate marginalized demographics, particularly women, by the Fund.

It is essential that the Loss and Damage fund consider the magnanimous effects that the climate crisis, in absence of adequate mitigation and adaptation measures, has had on already vulnerable demographics in Africa. A loss and damage funding agreement that prioritises the Global South's climate-marginalized demographics – women, youth, children, and persons living with disability must:

- Integrate a gender-responsive analysis of the fund in line with the goals of Article 8 of the Paris agreement that there is aversion, minimization and address of loss and damage effects.
- Recognise the intersectional impacts of the climate crisis and therefore on loss and damage. This will entail evaluating the impacts of race/ethnicity, language, cadre, literacy levels et al on the magnitude of loss and damage experienced.
- Not consider Gender Justice as an isolated add-on. Instead, it should be considered as the lens through which to design and implement fair Loss and Damage frameworks. This will involve creating mechanisms for gathering and evaluating evidence on differential impacts and magnitude of loss and damage and the interplay with gender equality. Optimising an evidence-based approach will require leveraging existent data - eg COP 23's Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer.

LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

Operationalization and evolution



Plan for comprehensive and gender-responsive analysis of the fund in line with the goals of Article 8 of the Paris agreement



Recognise the intersectional impacts of the climate crisis on loss and damage and evaluating the impacts of race/ethnicity, language, cadre, literacy levels et al on the magnitude of loss and damage experienced.



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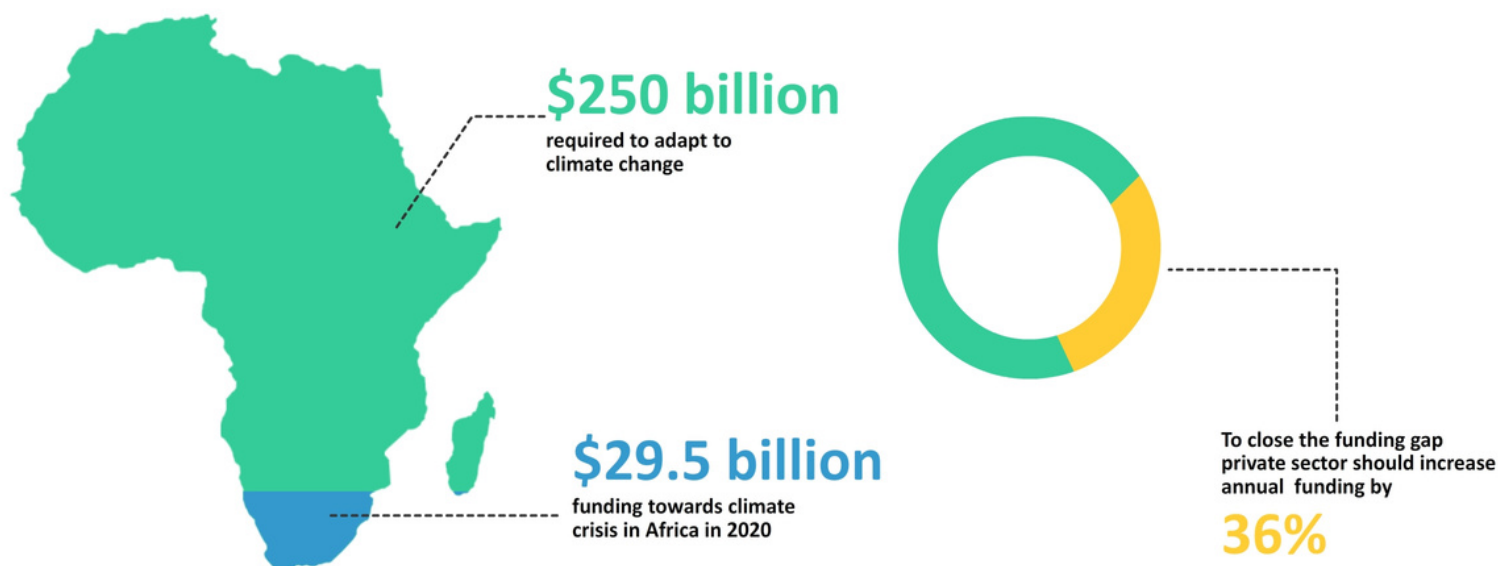
2] https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2023/09/08/the_african_leaders_nairobi_declaration_on_climate_change-rev-eng.pdf

2. TO ACHIEVE A GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE TRANSITION, AFRICAN ECONOMIES WILL NEED TO CLOSE THE CLIMATE FINANCING GAP BY LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING WITHIN THE VALUE CHAINS WHERE WOMEN TYPICALLY OPERATE.

The Climate Policy Initiative reports that Africa will require \$250 billion a year to ensure that countries are able to effectively adapt to the climate crisis[3]. In 2020, funding towards the crisis came in at \$29.5 billion[4]. The African Development Bank reports that the continent will require more than 10 times the climate finance that was channelled into it in the time spanning 2016 to 2019[4]. This deficit will affect, among other outcomes, the achievement of gender-responsive outcomes that the continent envisions in relation to the crisis.

This funding gap could be closed through leveraging private sector financing. To do so, private sector financing would need to increase by an estimated 36% every year up to 2030[5]. This increased support would particularly be useful in accelerating gender-response in favour of women who constitute the large percentage of players in supply and value chains for integral sectors and markets.

THE STATE OF AFRICA'S CLIMATE FINANCING



[3] <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/sponsored/green-banks-solution-to-lack-of-climate-finance-in-africa--4377908>

[4] <https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/african-women-bear-the-brunt-of-climate-change>

[5] https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/aeo_2023-chap2-en.pdf

The female workforce in Africa, constitutes the larger demographic in agriculture, manufacturing, the blue economy, energy, and Informal Cross Border Trade. Africa's workforce development needs in these sectors are substantial; in South Africa for example, research has unearthed that \$2.65 billion will be required to support reskilling of the workforce in the next 4 years (2023-2027) to meet the objectives of a socially inclusive, equitable and just transition. Conspicuously, as women in Africa dominate supply and value chains for key sectors affected by the crisis, private sector financing must be increased and channelled towards a harmonious response for them.

To accelerate progress in a gender-responsive agenda for Africa, leveraging private sector financing:

- There must be accelerated early adoption of the standards by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) across African countries. Currently the standards have been adopted in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Kenya. Without adoption of the Standards, there exists an impediment in terms of standardized reporting on sustainability metrics for target demographics.
- For the ISSB standards to be effective, it is integral that a global accountability framework is developed to accompany adoption. This will allow for clarity and harmony on the benchmarks and metrics that the private sector ought to apply in ensuring that there is, at the least, fair contribution towards sustainability for women in- and affected by- key sectors in Africa.

3. CLIMATE INVESTMENTS MUST DELIVER FOR AFRICA'S FEMALE FARMERS FOR INCREASED RESILIENCE AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.

This means embedding a gender-transformative global food system that is equitable and just, and integrates ambitious targets derived from national actions plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The extreme weather and patterns that stem from the climate crisis have plagued the agricultural economy for Africa. The transformation of African food systems will require \$76 billion by 2030[6]. Between the year 2001 and 2019 – Africa's expenditure on agriculture declined slightly from 2.93% to 2.32%¹. Historically, climate-related shocks in Africa happened on a 12-yearly cycle – now, they happen every 2.5 years- this impedes the ability of farmers to respond or adapt to the shocks[7]. With more than 60% of Africa's population dependent on agriculture, the growing burden of the climate crisis threatens to impede these livelihoods. Notably, the imperative for gender response is integral as Africa's women produce 70% of the continent's food[8].

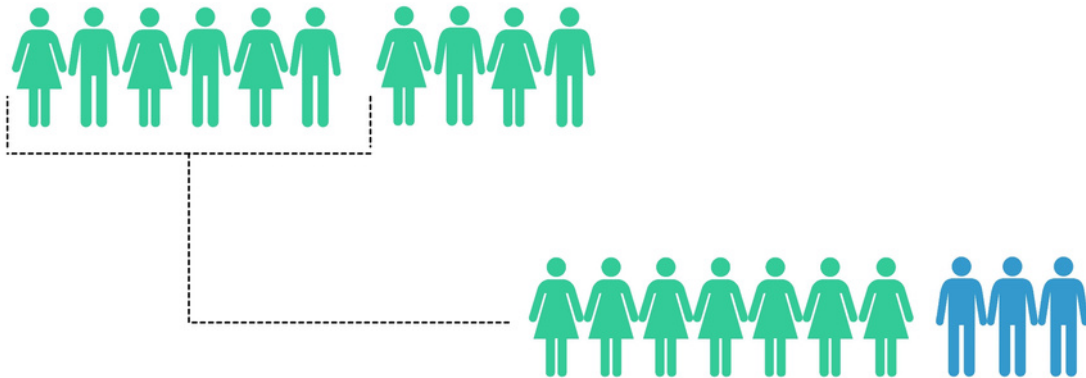
[6] https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/unfss-2-special-sessions/building-africa's-food-sovereignty-and-resilience-through-sustainable-investments-----concept-note.pdf?sfvrsn=3a1dec6b_0#:~:text=About%20US%2476%20billion%20annually,well%20below%20the%2010%25%20level.

[7] <https://blogs.worldbank.org/africacan/seizing-agri-food-opportunity-eastern-and-southern-africa#:~:text=Africa%20Must%20Invest%20in%20Climate%20Action&text=Consider%20these%20facts%3A,sufficiently%20recover%20between%20the%20shocks.>

[8] <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/03/women-farmers-food-production-land-rights/>

60%

of Africa's population
depend on agriculture



70%

of African farmers are
female food producers

In signing the Paris Agreement, 54 African countries have pledged to implement gender equitable implementation of the agreement. Further, at the regional level, Article 4(1) of the Constitutive Act of the Africa Union highlights gender equality as a precondition for sustainable people centred development.

While the NDC's of 48 African countries refer to women, the continent's policy actions and investments could do more to accelerate agricultural adaptation- particularly for women farmers, a key demographic at the frontline of the crisis.

- Through cohesive and comprehensive gender response objectives for the agricultural sector in Africa through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), there must be a deliberate push by African farmers for increased investment from climate finance to gender response in the agricultural sector. Governments must leverage data from African Women's Rights Organisations to inform sectoral gender response in the NDCs and NAPs and evaluate annual performance of gender outcomes. To do so, African governments must create parameters to allow for inclusion and use of data generated by African CSOs and WROs.

- African governments must leverage coordinating mechanisms such as the African Women and Gender Constituency and CAHOSCC Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change to push pan-African gender outcomes in key sectors. In particular the recently launched AWG constituency must embody and advocate for a fair climate transition for African women in key sectors and ensure the alignment of gendered climate investments into Africa with key pan-African gender frameworks such as the Maputo Protocol and the Solemn Declaration.
- Increased investments to promote and ease challenges of uptake of regenerative agriculture for African women. Regenerative agriculture is a conservation and rehabilitation technique that entails the reversal of climate effects on farmlands and natural ecosystems largely through water harvesting, increased soil health and accelerated biodiversity[9]. While intensive in the onset, regenerative agriculture, over time will reduce the cost of resources and labour intensity by smallholder farmers, mostly women and result in an increased quality and quantity of produce.

4. IN THE UNFOLDING CRISIS, DELIBERATED SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN WOMEN MUST BE RESEARCH DRIVEN.

The multi-dimensional nature of the climate crisis will require that solutions proffered in the interest of marginalized demographics are evidence-based; they identify causality and accurately prescribe both institutional and contextual policy mechanisms. This increases the efficacy of the solutions in achieving the intended results for the differed contexts of affected demographics.

Notably, while there is an abundance of evidence on the nature and the impacts of the climate crisis across the board, there is minimal evidence on its impacts on women[10] and even more so, on African women. This impacts the accuracy of response plans across an array of sectors within which women are primarily affected; agriculture, water and sanitation, energy and health.



Photo: Mada Al Saqqaf / Oxfam

[9] <https://www.africanwomenrising.org/programs/regenerative-agriculture>

[10] <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fclim.2022.895950/full>

78%

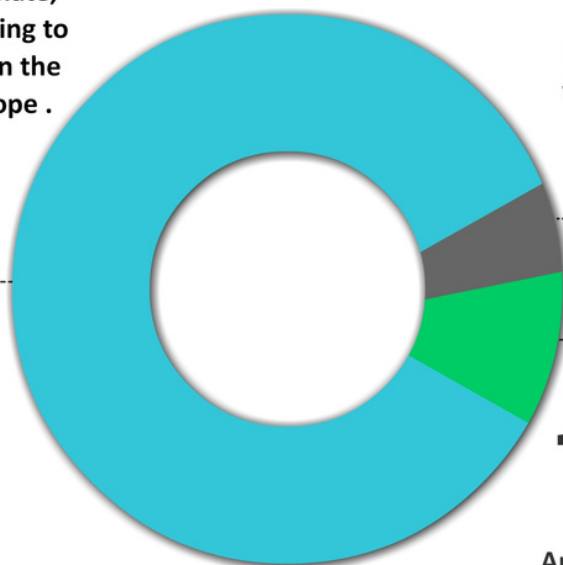
Africa's donors on climate, allocated 78% of funding to research institutions in the Global North and Europe .

7.5%

Undefined funding flows

14.5%

Amount allocated to African research institutions
(Larger portion to non African experts)



In Africa, the last decade has been characterized by an increased stream of funding into gendered and women-centred solutions for the climate crisis[11]. However, the majority of this have been anecdotal and hardly applicable. The application of environmental theories and gender solutions that are western based results in proliferation of solutions that bias the accurate experience of African climate-marginalized demographics.

- Conspicuously, there is a need for an increased flow of funding into African-led research initiatives on the climate crisis and its intersectional impacts on marginalized demographics. The African Climate and Development Initiative conducted an analysis of research that flowed into Africa. Their findings unearthed that for the past three decades, Africa's biggest donors on climate; the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, allocated 78% of their funding to research institutions in the global north and Europe[12]. African research institutions received 14.5% of the funding. While African governments need to invest in driving increased research funding into the continent, donor governments must honour the commitment to localisation through channelling increased funding to Africa Research organisations.

[11] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8847500/>

[12] <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/more-african-led-research-on-adaptation-will-help-the-continent-survive-climate-change/>

- Additionally, the design of research and policy solutions particularly for gender response and social inclusion in the crisis requires urgent decolonisation. Evidence indicates that the donor relationship with African research organisations remains for the most part, top-down. Funding agencies dictate the research projects that receive funding and prefer research initiatives spearheaded by non-African experts³. This alienates the inclusion and consideration of climate marginalized demographics whose involvement in research is dependent on specialised and culturally conscious skillsets from researchers.
- In developing research products that accurately reflect the experiences of African women and applicable gender solutions for African women at the grassroots, African Women's Rights Organizations and the Afro-feminist climate movement must be leveraged. These organizations routinely gather sex-disaggregated data on the crisis, carry out gender analysis and house gender indicators on the multi-sectoral impacts of the crisis on African women^[13]. Researchers must leverage these organisations in developing gender-responsive research products that benefit Africa's climate marginalized groups.



[13]

https://webassets.oxfamamerica.org/media/documents/Harnessing_the_potential_of_african_women_in_agriculture_to_meet_the_continent.pdf



Photo: Pablo Tosco / Oxfam

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