
Gender Assessment

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GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

SUPPLY CHAIN FINANCE GENDER ASSESSMENT

Gender Mainstreaming Guide

Introduction

This document provides a high level framework that will guide the mainstreaming of gender related issues in the decision-making process of financing small scale projects through the SCF. It gives an overview of the gender baseline scenario in South Africa, providing a synopsis of the legal/policy framework which has been put in place to ensure indiscriminative participation of both men and women in the South African economy.

The socio-economic status of women in South Africa

South Africa achieved democracy in 1994. Central to this democracy was a commitment to equality, including gender equality and the empowerment of women. The founding principles of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa include human rights, equality and freedom for everyone in South Africa. After 1994, the principle of gender equality influenced policy and legislation formulation in economic and development related areas such as access to employment, land, housing water health care and public works programme among others. Further, the South African government developed and implemented key domestic development programmes with an overarching focus to address the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. These included inter alia, the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP); Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) Shared Growth Initiative –South Africa (ASGISA) and many others. These programmes have culminated in the master development plan for the country, named the National Development Plan (NDP). Although these programmes, were meant to advance the country, they did not specifically focus on women, resulting therefore in the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality continuing to impact negatively on women in particular.

Additional programmes such as the Presidential Infrastructure Coordination Commission (PICC) and Operation Phakisa and the Green Economy have been put in place with the sole aim of providing the much-needed jobs and grow the economy South African economy. However, these programmes still do not have specific targeted performance measures for the up-liftment of women, hence there is doubt towards the realisation of the impact they can make.

The World Bank's South Africa Economic update published in Johannesburg in 2012, revealed that South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world. The share of national consumption between the richest and poorest remains stubbornly stable: 20% of the richest population accounted for over 61% in consumption in 2011 down from a high of 64% in 2006. Meanwhile, the bottom 20% have been seen remaining fairly constant at below 4.5% (Statistics South Africa 2014).

Table 1: Indicators of Inequality in South Africa

Inequality Indicators	2006	2009	2011
Gini Coefficient (Income per capita including salaries, wages and social grants)	0.72	0.70	0.69
Gini Coefficient (Expenditure per capita excl. taxes)	0.67	0.65	0.65
% share of national consumption of the poorest 20% (Per capita)	4.4	4.4	4.3
% share of national consumption of the richest 20% (per capita)	64.1	61.4	61.3

Source: Statistics South Africa: 2014

The last decade has further witnessed a marked increase in the number of those who are poor across the world, including South Africa, where three –quarters or 71% of the rural households were found to be poor. Over three in five (61%) of African households are poor compared to 38% of coloured households, 5% of Indian and 1% of white. Poverty has placed the greatest stress on family units but also on women, children and young people.

Inequalities still persist for example, for men and women, despite the wide spread recognition that when women's rights and the benefits accrue the whole society benefits. And women experience the deepening of a phenomenon called the feminization of poverty because of various other socio-economic factors- including the gendered division of labour in the household, the low value accorded to women's work; the concomitant clustering of women in low-paid jobs.

In tackling the challenge of poverty and inequalities, the South African government has put in place several programmes that are aimed at development and participation of SMEs in the economy. Such programmes span across all sectors of the green economy. Programmes are particularly meant to encourage participation of previously disadvantaged (PDA) communities including women and youth organizations. The South African Green Fund is seen as one of such programmes, a financial mechanism that is aimed at transitioning South Africa to a green economy. Though the Green Fund has played a catalytic role towards the green economy, it is also unfortunate that as a Fund that is meant to encourage participation of small scale players in the broader economy, it also did not have specified targets for vulnerable groups such as women, youth and the disabled. As such, the SCF project that initially benefitted through the Green Fund also did not have such targets.

This gender guide is aimed at ensuring that this trend of lack of specific targets for participation of vulnerable groups in such programmes is curbed. Through following this guide, the participation of organisations that are owned by different vulnerable groups will be improved.

Securing women's economic, social, and political participation in green initiatives and the overall economy will be achieved. Already, women and men are involved in climate change responses but in different ways. The Cancun Agreements acknowledge that gender equality

and the effective participation of women are important for all aspects of climate change, but especially for adaptation. Climate change hazards increase or heighten existing gender inequalities thereby contributing to the greater climate change vulnerability of many women. This is largely due to persistent gender norms and widespread gender discrimination that deny women income, legal rights, access to resources while assigning them the primary role in caring for their families and providing for their livelihoods, leading to women's marginalization in many ways.

Below are some of the key legislative instruments that the government has put in place in an effort to protect the rights of women and to ensure women participate in the mainstream of the economy.

Legal and Policy Framework on Gender

Several policies that govern the inclusion and indiscrimination of different groups have been put in place and all projects that seek funding from SCF will be expected to align with these legislative requirements some of which are listed below:

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996)

Section 9 of the Constitution defines the goals towards achieving gender equality and are guided by a vision of human rights which incorporates acceptance of equal and inalienable rights of all women and men. This ideal is a fundamental tenet under the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996). It emerged from a long period of struggle for a democratic society that respects and promotes the rights of all its citizens irrespective of race, gender, age, disability etc. (Bill of Rights, Sections 9.1 to 9.4)

The Gender Policy Framework

This policy establishes the national goal, proposes central objectives, defines key indicators for attaining the goal and objectives, and identifies key national structures that are mandated to implement the programme. While the Gender Policy Framework is not prescriptive, it does set standards and norms for the national programme.

The Bill of Rights

This Bill is the cornerstone of South Africa's democracy. It enshrines the rights of all people in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. While every person is entitled to these rights, they also have a responsibility to respect them. The Bill of Rights binds the legislature, the executive, judiciary and all organs of State. The rights contained in the Bill of Rights are subject to the limitations contained in or referred to in Section 36 of the Constitution, or elsewhere in the Bill of Rights. They apply to all laws, administrative decisions taken and acts performed during the period in which the Constitution is in force. In terms of the Constitution, every person has basic human rights such as:

- equality before the law and equal protection and benefit of the law
- freedom from unfair discrimination
- the right to life
- the right to human dignity
- the right to freedom and security of the person.

Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill

This Bill aims to give effect to section 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, in so far as the empowerment of women and gender equality is concerned; to establish a legislative framework for the empowerment of women; to align all aspects of laws and implementation of laws relating to women empowerment, and the appointment and

representation of women in decision making positions and structures; and to provide for matters connected therewith.