



Consultation workshop on ‘Development of Gender Tagging Tool for Climate Finance’
01 December, 2019, CICC (1st Floor), CIRDAF, Dhaka, Organized By: UNDP Bangladesh

1. Background:

Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty. Women’s unequal participation in decision-making processes and labor markets compound inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation. Yet, women can (and do) play a critical role in response to climate change due to their local knowledge of sustainable resource management at the household and community level. Both at national and local level, women’s inclusion at the leadership leads to improved outcomes of climate related policies and programs. To the contrary, if policies or programs are implemented without women’s meaningful participation there is a possibility of increased inequalities and decreased effectiveness.

Bangladesh is among the world's most at-risk countries in relation to climate change and the Government of Bangladesh has recognized climate change as one of the most serious threats to the agenda of poverty reduction and development and has made a number of commitments to tackle it. The first major innovation was the formulation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) in 2009, followed by the creation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF)

funded from its own sources. The Ministry of Finance positioned itself as a pioneer in producing climate budget reports every year since 2017, with support from UNDP, as part of the public financial management (PFM) reform envisaged in its global first initiative of developing the climate fiscal framework (CFF) which was adopted by the Government in 2014.

The climate budget report sets out in detail exactly how much of the national budget allocated to different ministries having climate actions is going to climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. However, the climate budget report does not specify the part of the allocation which will contribute towards gender equality and empowerment. Moreover, the gender budget published by the government since 2008 as a supplementary document to national budget document, also does not have the option to identify which part of the gender budget of different ministries is allocated for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

However, tracking gender responsive budget allocation and investment in addressing climate change is important as it strengthens the public financial management system for climate finance. International experience indicates that increasing the gender-responsiveness of climate public finance, both in the case of adaptation and

mitigation financing, is an opportunity to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. Ignoring women as a crucially relevant stakeholder group can lead to suboptimal results from the use of climate finance and undermine the sustainability of funded interventions. Against this backdrop, the 'strengthening governance of climate change finance to enhance gender equality' project of UNDP, with funding support from Swedish Development Agency (SIDA), has taken the initiative to develop a set of user-friendly tagging indicators/criteria to include gender and poverty dimensions in climate investments (i.e. investment on women, persons with disabilities, indigenous population, and other excluded population). However, the draft tool that has been developed demands wider consultation with cross section of stakeholders, particularly with different line ministries, before proposing to the Finance Division for the acceptance and inclusion in the national accounting and budgetary system. Therefore, a consultation workshop was held on December 01, 2019 at Dhaka, organized by UNDP Bangladesh.

2. Objective

The workshop brought together senior government officials, policy makers, experts, civil society and the private sector who will provide inputs on the proposed gender responsive climate investment tagging tool, developed around the six thematic areas of BCCSAP. The comments and feedbacks generated through the workshop will certainly enrich the tagging tool with knowledge and experience from diverse backgrounds, which will be eventually proposed to the government for the acceptance and inclusion in the national accounting and budgetary system so that it contributes in strengthening the governance of gender responsive climate change finance. The workshop served as a forum for dialogue among all relevant stakeholders to structure and adopt a holistic approach on the issue of climate finance management through knowledge building.

3. Key Outcome and Recommendation

The workshop has conducted through presenting a key note on gender tagging tool for climate finance in present and future context and put some recommendation in relating this issues. Participants from different level of stakeholders have also spoke and shared their knowledge and experiences and put their ideas and recommendations. Based on the overall discussion, the workshop has been facilitated the following key outcome on gender tagging criteria on climate finance;

- Develop a set of user-friendly simple tagging criteria to include gender and poverty dimensions in climate investments (i.e. investment on women, girls, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous population, and other excluder population).
- Review the tagging criteria after its applications in the tracking exercise for gender and poverty responsive climate allocation and expenditure in national budget.
- Climate Change and gender related sex disaggregated data can be put in place and the type of data required can be devised from the analysis.
- Format a Joint Monitoring Task Force (JMTF) that will include relevant government officials, CSOs, academics, journalists and private sectors. The task force can strengthen coordination between different ministries / divisions, support Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the Ministry of Planning. Besides this, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) can also play vital role to ensure gender-based climate budget.
- Inter-ministerial coordination ought to be ensured. Cabinet Division can do the overall coordination for finalizing gender tagging tool.
- Accountability and transparency must be guaranteed regarding climate budget allocation and expenditures; and gender issue has to be integrated.

4. Introductory Session

The workshop was inaugurated by the speech **Ms. Nuzhat Imam**, Gender and Climate Finance Expert, CFG Project, UNDP. She welcomed everyone for joining the workshop and briefly mentioned the purpose of the workshop

5. Welcome Speech and Tone setting

Mr. Khurshid Alam, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP said that the status of women and youth girls in Bangladesh remains considerably inferior to that of men. They, in custom and practice, remain subordinate to men in almost all aspects of their lives. Most women's lives remain centered on their traditional roles. So, mainstreaming gender perspective in climate change programs and climate finance is very important. He focused on the Gender responsive climate finance and expected the valuable comment how can develop the gender tagging tools for way forward.

6. Key Note Presentation

Ms. Sharmind Neelormi, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University said that finance division has been publishing intended public finance spending for climate change budget report since 2017-18. The total climate relevant allocation was 7.8% of total national budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year which is praiseworthy. But the question is how and where they spend the allocated money for gender equality and gender response is not transparent at all. So, considering the importance of gender based climate budget, we have to develop a tool to measure the overall performance of gender response and gender based activities.

7. Technical Experts Discussion

Dr Sayema Haque Bidisha, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka said that the gender sensitivity and perspective is not same across the country. It varies in from areas to areas. Gender segregated data is needed to address the condition and vulnerability of the women, girls and

children. Therefore, national level database center and survey is very important in this regards. It will be helpful to establish a gender analysis cell under MoWCA or MoF.

Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow & Head (a.i.), Gender Studies Cluster, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University said that we have to identify the role and responsibilities of key ministries on gender sensitivity. Inter-ministerial coordination and accountability of the climate budget expenditure have to be ensured. She added that access and development of technology is also carrying need. She further added that there need to be developed the marker or the indicator for all. And finally she told that gender issue will be integrated to the planning and policy documents.

8. Speech by Guests of Honor

Ms. Dilruba Haider, Programme Specialist, UN Women said that the gender tagging tool must be simple and flexible. We should remind in mind, the tool can be applicable to all relevant ministries. Better try to lessen the indicator in this situation. We have informed that existing tools has 14 criterions to access the impact on women budget in gender budget report. So, it should be more simplified and abridged.

Mr. Md. Aynul Kabir, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs said that gender is not only a women related issue, it is a cross cutting issues. Government is working hard to minimize the gap between men and women. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has been working continuously for gender sensitivity and gender response. That's why gender responsive budget can a very vital role for establishing gender equality. Gender tagging tool will help to identify the scenario of overall gender responsive budget and expenditure. Cabinet Ministry can play a vital role in this regard for developing gender tagging tool with different ministries and divisions as well as departments.

9. Closing Remarks

Mr. AKM Mamunur Rashid, Climate Change Specialist, UNDP & moderator of the workshop said that Government is very much aware of the climate change issue. We have NAPA, BCCSAP, NDC, Climate fiscal framework, Standing orders of disaster (SOD) , BCTF, 7th five year plan, perspective plan, Vision 2021, Vision 2041, SDG 2030 and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100. All these focus on how can we mitigate the negative impact of climate change and cope with these adverse situation. Govt. approve the climate budget for the third consecutive year since 2017-18 which is exceptional. But it is matter of concern that we have not seen the concrete scenario how these climate budget is working for gender sensitivity or reducing gender inequality. So, the budget should be more specific focusing on gender issues. It needs to address the distinguish vulnerability and inequality. Therefore, the budget should be right based and gender based. He further added that we have taken recommendations which will be helpful to develop a standard gender tagging tool for climate finance.

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