

POLICY BRIEF: GENDER RESPONSIVE AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE PUBLIC CLIMATE FINANCE



Everyone lives in a changing climate, but climate change does not affect everyone equally. Impacts of climate change are experienced differently by people of different gender, ages, social and economic groups, geographical location, relationships with the environment, and other factors. These factors affect people's varied roles, responsibilities and access to power and resources, which in turn affect their ability to manage the risks and cope with the impacts of climate change.

The challenges of gender equality, poverty and climate change are intertwined. Climate resilience cannot be fully achieved without effectively addressing the gender and poverty dimensions of the challenges and creating an enabling environment for social participation in climate change action at all levels. It is crucial that climate change strategies and investments are truly gender responsive and socially inclusive, and systematically integrated into the governance systems at the national, sectoral, and local levels.

Why mainstream gender and social inclusion (GSI) in climate change policy, planning and financing?

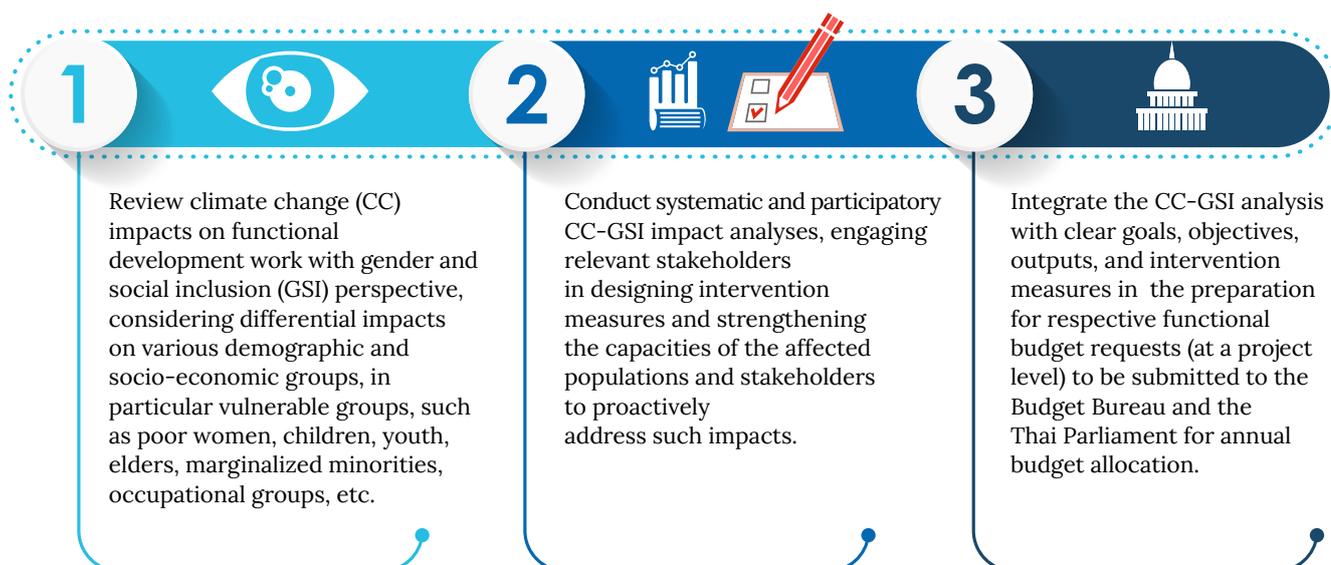
Mainstreaming gender and social inclusion (GSI) is crucial in achieving effective climate change policy, planning and financing because it strengthens national climate change response by ensuring that:

- Climate policies and interventions are appropriate to the local context by addressing the different perspectives, roles, rights, needs, and priorities of women and men and vulnerable groups as equal stakeholders.
- Climate approaches are more inclusive, efficient, responsive, and provide broader and equitable benefits to all groups of people, especially the most vulnerable.
- Women and men in all population groups have equal opportunities to participate and act as active agents of change in decision-making and implementation at the national, regional, and local levels of adaptation and mitigation.
- Where gender and social equity gaps exist in distributions of power, resources, services, and participation, disadvantaged groups are supported and empowered to overcome social, cultural, or institutional constraints and barriers to meaningful engagement, and that their knowledge, concerns, and experiences are taken into account.
- Resources are mobilized strategically to ensure equal participation and equitable distribution, especially at the local level, and climate financing is designed to address and not to exacerbate gender and social inequalities.
- Development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies promote equitable access, education and training opportunities for all women and men to use as means and tools for climate change mitigation and adaptation.¹

Handbook for Integrating Climate Change (CC)-Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) into Budget Requests

The main objective of the Handbook is to support Thai government agencies to integrate the climate change and gender-social dimensions into its functional budget requests to increase budgetary effectiveness and align budget allocation with the national sustainable development strategies and goals.

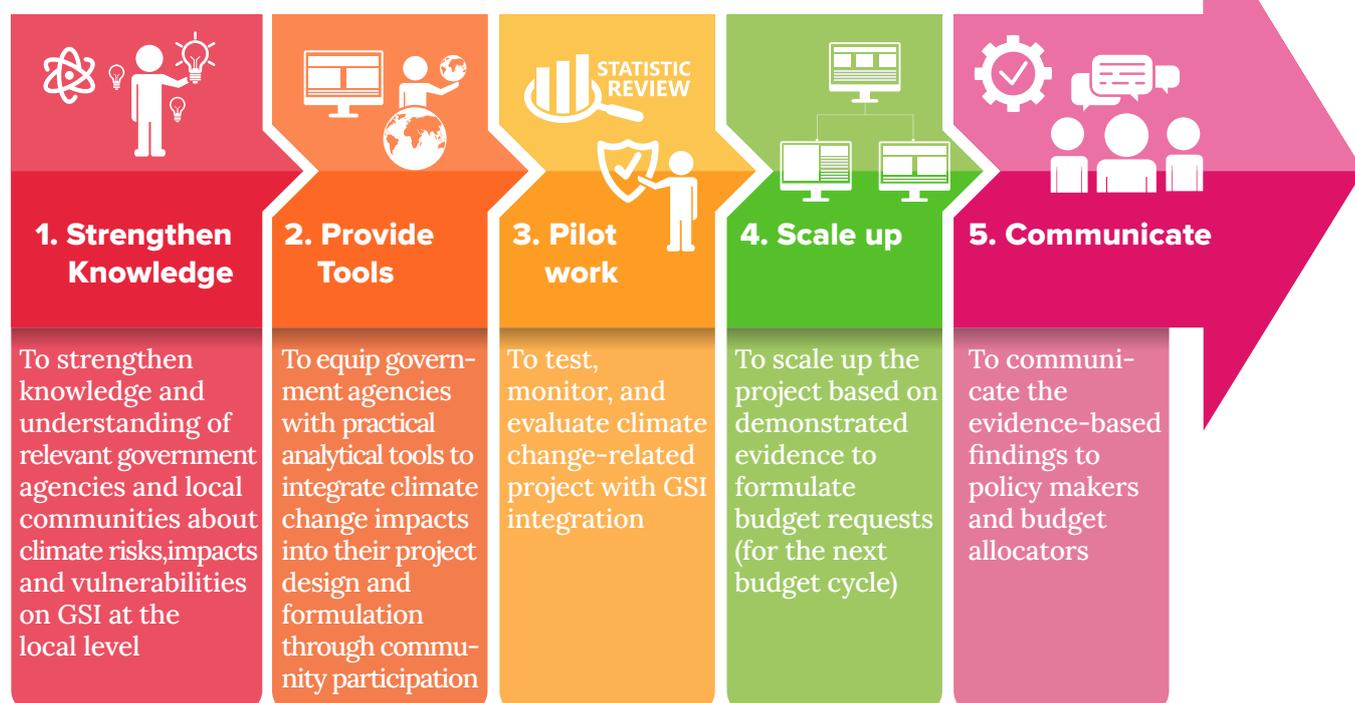
Designed to be compatible with the existing Budget Formulation Guidelines of the Budget Bureau, this Handbook can be used by each government agency at national and sub-national levels to:



Pilot Project Approach to Capacity Strengthening

A pilot project approach is a practical and collaborative institutional learning process. Pilot projects provide an opportunity for government agencies, as well as researchers and local communities, to jointly learn how to conduct and collaborate on

GSI-climate vulnerability and impact assessment on a small scale and to develop an effective model to integrate GSI into climate-related project formulation, management, and budgeting.



The National Working Group on Inclusive Climate Change Benefit Analysis approved the selection of two pilot provinces, Maha Sarakham and Uthai Thani, at the 3rd August 2020 meeting. Key government partners in the pilot activities in these two provinces

were the **Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the **Office of Agriculture Economics (OAE)**, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC).

Pilot Process in Mekdum Community, Maha Sarakham Province (2021)

- **3 pilot villages** (Baan Mekdum Moo 1, Baan Don Pai Ngam Moo 8, Baan Dong Duan Moo 20) in Tambon Mekdum, Phayak Phoompisai District
 - High and low land areas, vulnerable to repeated droughts and floods
 - 49% population rely on agriculture as the only source of income; 41% have income from agricultural and non-agricultural sources
 - Demographic diversity; out-migration
- **Participatory action research and CC-GSI data collection**
 - CC-GSI integrated action research design
 - Provincial and district consultations on pilot site selection with various government agencies
 - Up-to-date data inputs from relevant agencies
 - Community survey and CC-GSI data analysis
- **Community engagement in participatory research and community project formulation**
 - Stakeholder mapping and selection of key population groups in the pilot community
 - First community workshop
 - Climate change and gender and social vulnerability on climate change impacts education
 - Presentation and validation of research findings on climate change impacts on different population groups in the community
 - Gap and need analysis
 - SWOT analysis
 - Second community workshop
 - Problem tree analysis
 - Theory of Change
 - Community priorities identified
 - Stakeholder mapping and analysis
 - Community project formulation
- **Inclusive multi-level stakeholder consultations**
 - Leadership support at provincial level
 - Final workshop: provincial consultation with government agencies on proposed community projects and potential budget resources



Second Community Workshop, 20 June 2021, Mekdum, Phayakkhaphum Phisai, Maha Sarakham

Lessons Learned

- 1. Action research and data collection:** It is crucial for researchers conducting participatory action research and CC-GSI data collection to have a good understanding of the concept of Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) in Thailand's climate change context:
 - The GSI dimension must be integrated throughout the process of action research.
 - Insufficient understanding or a lack of GSI perspective could result in lack of meaningful community participation and GSI gaps in data collection and analysis.
 - Community participation is an important aspect of the data collection and analysis process.
- 2. Institutional capacity building:** Government officials typically still have a limited understanding of how gender and social inclusion is relevant to climate change vulnerabilities and impacts and climate action. They need further targeted training in this respect. Integrating CC-GSI in agency line work and budget requests will be an ongoing learning process that needs to be replicated and repeated.
- 3. The governor's leadership support** is crucial in mobilizing various government agencies and key stakeholders to join the collaborative learning process at the provincial and local levels.

¹ European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi), *Pocket Guide to Gender Equality in National Climate Action. Planning for Gender-Responsive Nationally Determined Contributions*, UNDP, Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), and Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2018, p. 8.

About NDC Support Project: Delivering Sustainability through Climate Finance Actions in Thailand (NDC Support Project)

The objective of the NDC Support project is to support the Royal Thai Government to achieve transformational change by using NDC implementation as a mechanism to scale up investments in climate change and deliver socially-inclusive and gender-responsive climate actions for sustainable development, thereby helping the country deliver on the commitment outlined in its NDCs and, through this, on the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

NDC Support Project is implemented in partnership with the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), with generous supports from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Government of Sweden, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Government of Germany, and UNDP's Climate Promise.



Community's representatives including the elderly, people with disabilities, females, leaders, and the youth



Provincial consultation on community projects and budget resources, 17 August 2021, Maha Sarakham Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment

Implementing Partners



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