SDC Network **Climate, DRR & Environment**

PEACE GOVERNANCE EQUALITY

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**

Welcome to the webinar

# Addressing Gender and C/D/E through transformative action

29 October 2026

# Team



**André Wehrli**

Senior Policy Advisor / Focal Point Climate, DRR, Environment Network
SDC



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**Daniela Buchmann**

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**Nora Schmidlin**

Project Manager
INFRAS



**Cesar Robles**

Tech Facilitation
Senior Advisor, Learning & Innovatoin, Communication
Helvetas

# Before we start...



Please introduce yourself in the chat

Please write:

- Your name
- Your organisation
- Where you are joining from

# Gender Transformative: **what comes to your mind?**

Go to

**www.menti.com**

Enter the code

**8820 4881**

Or use QR code

Menti

# Gender Transformative: what comes to your mind?



# PROGRAM

**Interrelations between C/D/E and Gender**

Nora Schmidlin
INFRAS

Daniela Buchmann
SDC

Interactive session
**From Participation to Power**



**Advancing Gender Equality and Climate / Environmental action - in practice -**

Noémi Grütter
GAGGA

Abel Gouba
SDC, Burkina Faso

Divya Sharma
SDC, India

**WRAP UP**

Laurence von Schulthess SDC

# Interrelations betweeen gender and C/D/E

The main elements addressed in the Thematic Integration Brief on C/D/E and gender equality

Nora Schmidlin
Project Manager
INFRAS

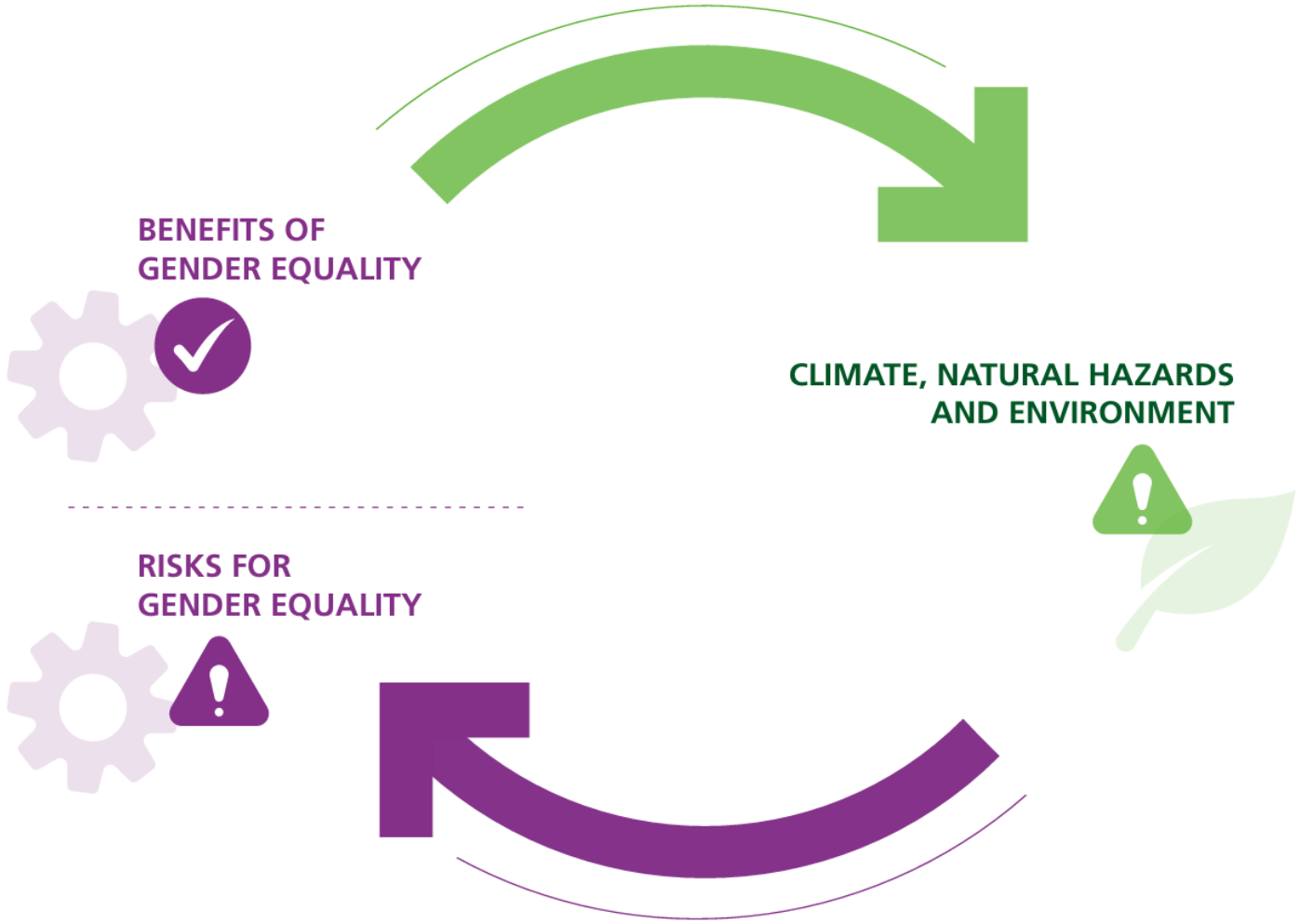
Webinar: Addressing gender and C/D/E through transformative action

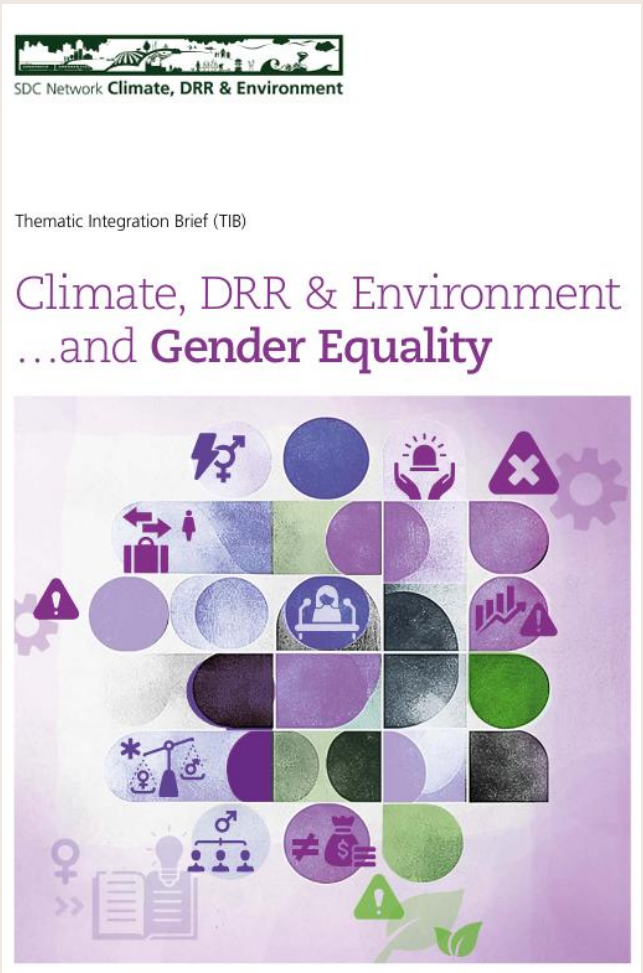
# Interrelations between gender and C/D/E

Nora Schmidlin

29 October 2026

# 01 Overview


BENEFITS OF
GENDER EQUALITY
CLIMATE, NATURAL HAZARDS
AND ENVIRONMENT
RISKS FOR
GENDER EQUALITY


SDC Network Climate, DRR & Environment
Thematic Integration Brief (TIB)
Climate, DRR & Environment
…and Gender Equality

# 02 Risks of C/D/E for gender equality

**HEALTH AND PROTECTION**



Unequal health effects of C/D/E and discriminating protection measures

**DECISION-MAKING AND OUTREACH**



Male-dominated C/D/E related decision-making leading to gender-blind policies

**ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND POVERTY**



Unequal financial capacity to address C/D/E risks

**GENDER-BLIND MEASURES TO ADDRESS C/D/E RISKS**



Increased inequalities and vulnerabilities through C/D/E programming



# 03 Benefits of gender equality for C/D/E



Strengthening women's access to knowledge and information on C/D/E issues



Empowerment of women to use their specific knowledge on natural resources



Increasing participation of women in C/D/E-related political decision-making processes and institutions



Integrating women's perspectives in disaster preparedness efforts



# 04 Key areas for action

**Awareness and risk assessment**

e.g. through context-specific gender analyses

**Policies, decision-making and participation**

e.g. more meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes

**Capacities and access**

e.g. providing equal access to resources

**Programming**

e.g. using tools on mainstreaming gender in PCM or applying CEDRIG

# Thank you for your attention

**Nora Schmidlin**

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Tel. +41 44 205 95 95

info@infras.ch

# Q&A

# Conceptual perspective and contribution of SDC to Gender Transformative Action

**Daniela Buchmann**
Gender Programme Manager
SDC

# Levels of gender transformative action



**GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE**

Aiming at actively changing the underlying social norms, structures and power dynamics that cause gender inequalities. The goal is to promote long-term changes that lead to a fair distribution of power and resources among genders.

**GENDER RESPONSIVE/ POSITIVE**

Actively addressing and integrating specific needs and priorities of different genders in programming. The goal is to design policies and programmes that promote gender-equitable outcomes and reduce existing inequalities.

**GENDER SENSITIVE**

Recognising and analysing existing gender inequalities and taking them into account in the planning and implementation of measures. The goal is to ensure that gender considerations inform decisions and practices to avoid negative impacts on any gender.

**GENDER NEUTRAL / BLIND**

Considering gender as irrelevant to the development outcome, and ignoring inequalities and positive or negative effects on gender equality.

**GENDER NEGATIVE**

Reinforcing gender inequalities to achieve specific development outcomes by relying on gender norms, roles, and stereotypes that perpetuate those inequalities.

# Q&A

# Advancing **Gender Equality & Climate / Environment action** in practice

**Three Projects · Different Angles · Different levels**

India: Solar Energy for Agriculture Resilience (SoLAR)

Divya Sharma
Programme Officer
India

Burkina Faso: Projet Résilience alimentaire des personnes déplacées internes (ProRes)

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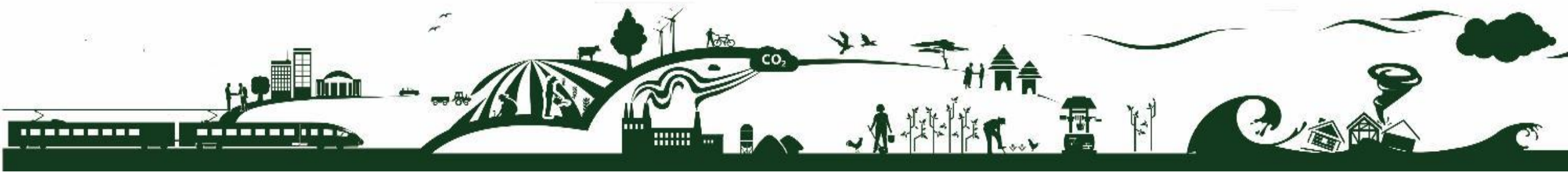
**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**

SoLAR
Solar Energy for Agricultural Resilience

# Gender-Responsive Solar Transitions for Inclusive Water Security and Climate Resilience

Addressing gender and C/D/E through transformative action |

29th October 2026



# Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience (SoLAR) project

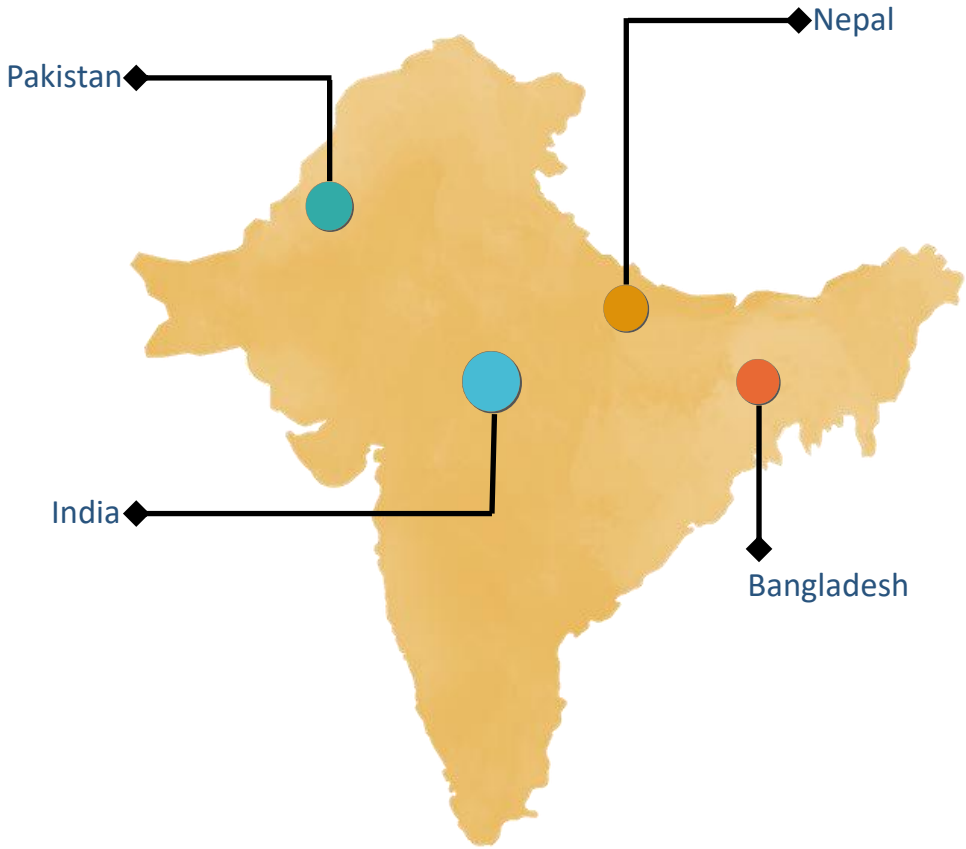
To contribute to climate-resilient, gender-equitable, and socially inclusive (GESI) agrarian livelihoods by promoting solar energy solutions in agriculture.

**Outcome 1:** Improved empirical evidence for mainstreaming of climate-resilient, GESI-responsive and groundwater-aware solar irrigation promotion policies

**Outcome 2:** Innovative approaches for GESI and groundwater-aware solar irrigation are validated

**Outcome 3:** Increased knowledge and capacity for GESI-responsive and groundwater-aware solar irrigation policies and practices

## Project Countries




NOTE: In India, the work spans Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh. In Bangladesh, project ctivities extend across Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, and Barisal divisions. In Nepal, the project has worked in the Tarai provinces, while in Pakistan, work has focused on Punjab province.

# Cross country Overview

| | India | Bangladesh | Nepal | Pakistan |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Barriers** | Women's lack of land ownership limits their eligibility for PM-KUSUM solar irrigation subsidies, preventing independent access to solar pumps and formal financing. | Low participation of women in technical and maintenance roles due to social norms that perceive solar engineering as a male domain, restricting women's entry into green energy jobs. | Limited access to land and finance, coupled with low technical participation and decision-making power. | Cultural mobility restrictions prevent women from attending field demonstrations, training, or engaging with vendors, limiting their awareness and uptake of solar technologies. |
| **Enablers** | SHG networks and gender-focused training supported inclusive adoption and local entrepreneurship. | Institutional Mainstreaming (IDCOL) embedded GESI targets in its solar irrigation program, promoting women's participation. | AEPC reformed solar subsidy guidelines to include gender and inclusion indicators in allocation criteria. | Engagement with women's agricultural cooperatives and microfinance institutions can expand access. |
| **Results** | • Collective and women-managed SIP models enhanced income (20–50%), confidence, and decision-making power<br>• Increased cropping intensity and off-farm enterprises improved women's economic status. | • Awareness campaigns and flexible credit terms improved affordability for women and youth.<br>• Involvement in water user groups increased women's mobility, recognition, and voice in community decisions. | • Collective and cooperative ownership models enabled women's entry into energy access and management.<br>• Women trained as operators, technicians, and decision-makers improved system upkeep and local leadership. | • Solar water pumping pilots began integrating gender awareness, though not yet at scale.<br>• Inclusion of GESI-responsive targets in provincial renewable energy and agricultural schemes could accelerate equitable scaling. |



# What?

The project embedded Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) across design, implementation, and monitoring—linking technology adoption with empowerment through:

- Tailored capacity-building and outreach.
- Inclusive financial and subsidy models.
- Partnerships with women’s groups, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and cooperatives.
- Policy dialogues embedding GESI into energy and irrigation planning.

# Where we design for women, the results follow

**20–50%**

income gain from women-led & collective solar irrigation — water sales, solar milling, off-season crops

**3,500+**

farmers & 300 technicians trained — around 30% women & youth

**1 in 3**

solar subsidies reserved for women in Nepal; 41% of technicians trained were women

**~26 t**

$CO_2$ avoided per year by women-led solar irrigation systems



*"For the first time, Adivasi women in our village are running a water system and managing the finances — making us decision-makers in our own community."*

**Kusum Devi** — Farmer, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India

THE LESSON

# What worked was the bundle — not the panel alone



## Inclusive finance

Earn First–Pay Later, First-Loss Default Guarantees and PAYGO let a woman with no collateral pay from the water she sells — not upfront.



## Collective ownership

Self-Help Groups, cooperatives and Water User Associations let women who cannot hold a land title still co-own and manage the asset.



## Capacity & leadership

Women trained as operators, technicians and trainers — moving from end-users to the people who run and maintain the systems.

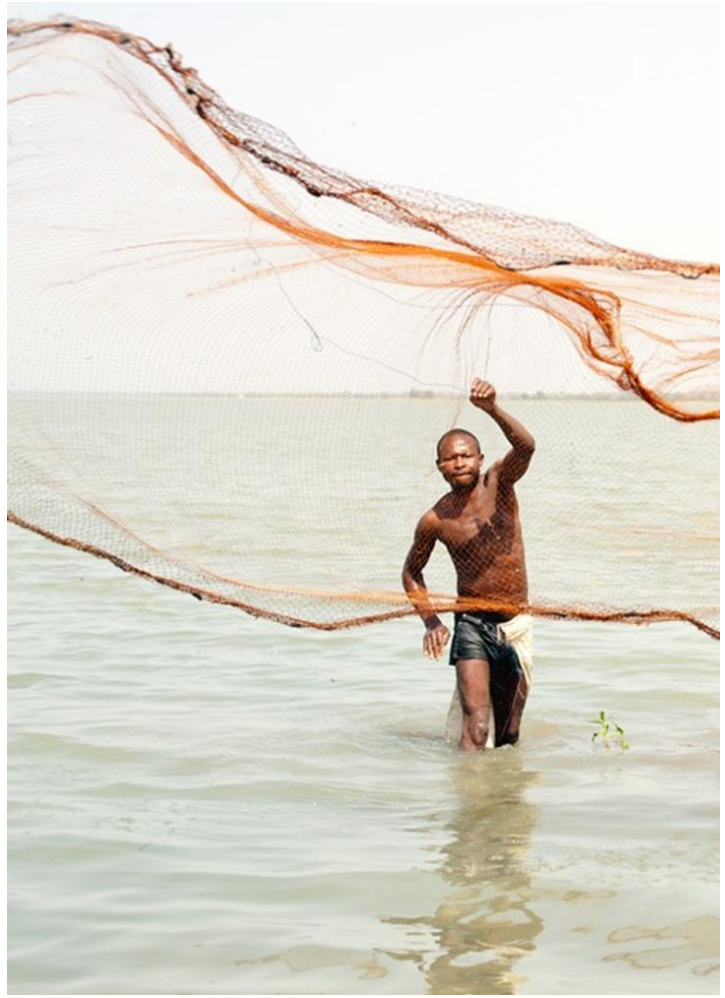
**Embed gender from day one.** Take any one piece away and the gains shrink.

SoLAR PHASE II · 2025–2028

# Carrying the evidence into East Africa

India · Bangladesh → **Ethiopia · Kenya**

- A GESI inclusivity index built into every tool — inclusion measured, not assumed
- Inclusive finance — a Solar4Africa Irrigation Investment Fund & cooperative-led models
- Women as technicians and service providers, not only end-users
- Gender built into the solar suitability maps themselves



**Adapt — don't copy.** In Ethiopia, women are still largely shut out of irrigation extension and gender data is thin; in Kenya, planning is county-by-county and women farm the drylands. Principles travel; design stays local.



Solar Energy for Agricultural Resilience (SoLAR) is a global project implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

# Thank you.

# Why GESI for Solar Energy Scaling?




**1. Enhances Adoption and Sustainability:**
Inclusive approaches ensure that both women and marginalized groups can access, operate, and maintain solar technologies—broadening user bases and improving long-term adoption rates.

**2. Expands Economic and Social Impact:**
When women participate as users, entrepreneurs, and service providers, solar irrigation leads to higher farm productivity, diversified livelihoods, and increased household incomes.

**3. Bridges Access and Affordability Gaps:**
GESI-responsive financing and collective ownership models overcome barriers like lack of land, credit, and information, enabling equitable participation in clean energy transitions.

**4. Strengthens Policy and Institutional Outcomes:**
Integrating GESI in solar programs—such as AEPC (Nepal), IDCOL (Bangladesh), and PM-KUSUM (India)—makes national energy policies more inclusive, accountable, and socially responsive.

**5. Drives Climate-Resilient and Just Transitions:**
Empowering women and vulnerable groups in solar energy systems not only reduces emissions but also ensures that climate benefits are distributed equitably, supporting just and resilient energy transitions.

THE GOAL

# 50,000 women & marginal farmers +35% farm income

## Bundle it

Technology with finance and capacity — together, from the start.

## Build ownership

Women's ownership and leadership, not just their access.

## Institutionalise it

Embed GESI in policy and monitoring, so it outlives any one project.

*A great equaliser, or a new divide. The evidence is clear which choice works.*

# Advancing **Gender Equality & Climate / Environment action** in practice

**Three Projects · Different Angles · Different levels**

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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR GREEN AND GENDER ACTION

10 years

*Catalyzing a Gender Just Climate Future*

# Catalyzing a Gender-Just Climate Future



# The Alliance

**Founded a decade ago, GAGGA was created by these three organizations in response to the urgent need to fund and support gender-just climate action across the Global South, where the impacts of climate change are intensifying.**

fcam
FONDO CENTROAMERICANO DE MUJERES
FOUNDATION

Strengthening women's and feminist movements.

mamacash

Supporting women, girls, and trans and intersex people in their fight for their rights.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR GREEN AND GENDER ACTION

Both ENDS
Connecting people for change

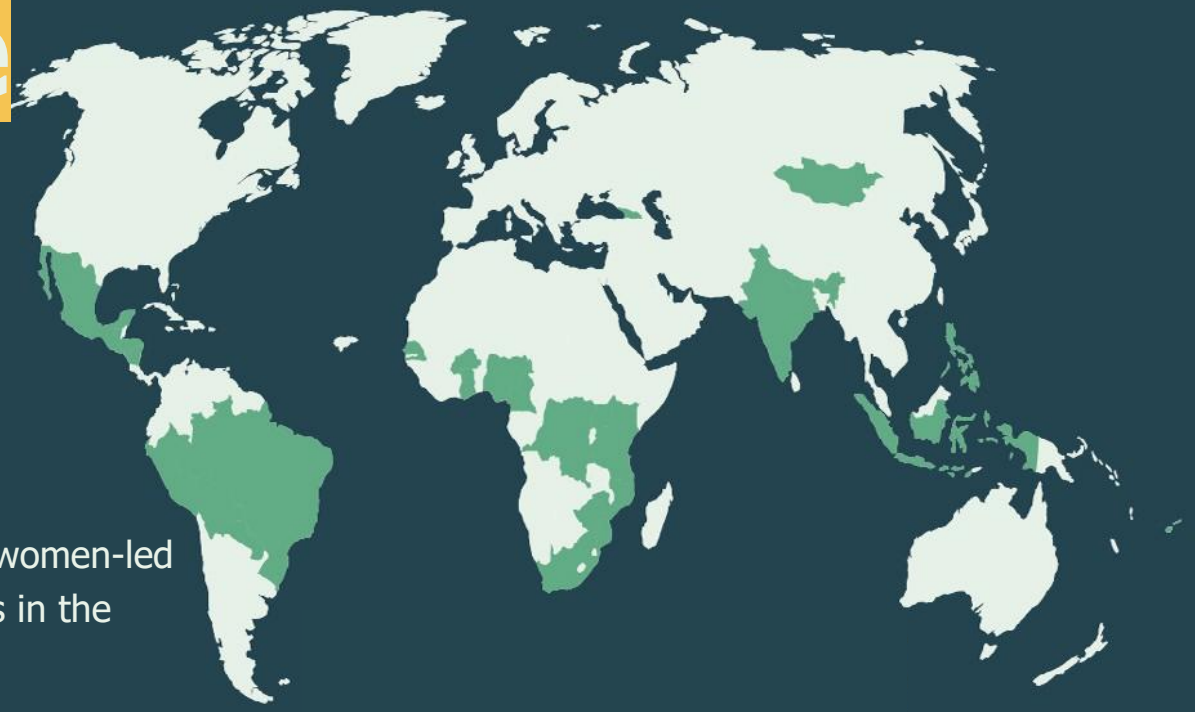
Advancing environmental justice via advocacy.

# GAGGA at a glance

**1 global network of partners**
global climate impact

operates in
**60 countries**

channeled over
**€50 million**
in funding to more than 2,600 women-led community based organisations in the Global South and East



## Funder

Strengthened capacities of
**2,300+**
**Community Based Organizations**

**+70%** of funding **directly supports frontlines partners** driving climate solutions

## Convener

Facilitated **170+** **in-person** and virtual knowledge and **peer-to-peer learning exchanges** among women-led CBOs

## Catalyzer

Launched over **2,330+ bottom-up bottom-up advocacy initiatives** across its network of NGOs, funds and local women-groups.

# What makes it gender-transformative?



1. Decision-making power

2. Control over land and natural resources

3. Access to resources and policy influence

# In practice: El Niño preparedness

## Who has the power and resources to prepare for climate shocks, shape the response and determine what resilience looks like?

- *Bolivia - From emergency response to preparedness, water harvesting*
- *South Africa - Protecting food systems and livelihoods, control over seeds*
- *Nepal - addressing the institutional barriers that exclude some women from protection and decision-making*



# Challenges: Access to resources, policy spaces and shrinking civic space




### *Climate progress depends on who has access to resources*

**Only 2.4%** of all climate-related development assistance is dedicated to gender equality as the “principal” objective. **Only 0.22%** of overall ODA for climate change and gender equality goes to women's rights organizations.

### *Climate progress depends on who can speak*

**72% of the world’s population lives in countries where civic space is repressed** or closed. GAGGA partners are defending land, water and territory under exactly those conditions.

# Five practical questions towards gender transformative approaches



1. Who actually makes **the decisions** and who controls **the budget**?
2. Do women have **secure rights to the land and natural resources** that our interventions depend on?
3. Are women-led community organisations able to **access funding directly**, and is that funding flexible and long-term enough to support their priorities?
4. Does participation translate into **meaningful influence over local governance, climate finance and policy decisions?**
5. Are we **measuring changes in power, rights and resource control**, alongside conventional project outputs?
6. Are we protecting the **conditions for women's leadership?**

# Thank you!



*for follow up questions:*
*n.grutter@fcamfoundation.org*
*more information: www.gaggaalliance.org*

## Extreme Heat, Health and Climate Justice

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR GREEN AND GENDER ACTION

**Women-Led Solutions for Resilient Communities**

Read the full research here

# Q&A

*Which gender transformative elements have you noticed?*

*Do you recognize opportunities for similar action in your programmes?*

Time to get interactive

# Let’s break into groups to discuss case studies

## Groups

- **Group 1**
  India
- **Group 2**
  Burkina Faso
- **Group 3**
  Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action

## Guiding questions

What are the experiences, challenges and responses when moving from gender sensitive to gender transformative action?

What are the bottle necks, what works, and what doesn’t?

Note:
Please prepare a key message for plenary

## How to join

Join the group of your choice through the icon “Breakout rooms”.

If you can’t see the icon, go to “more” option.





# What’s your take-home message?

# Webinar Evaluation

**What do you think about today's webinar?**

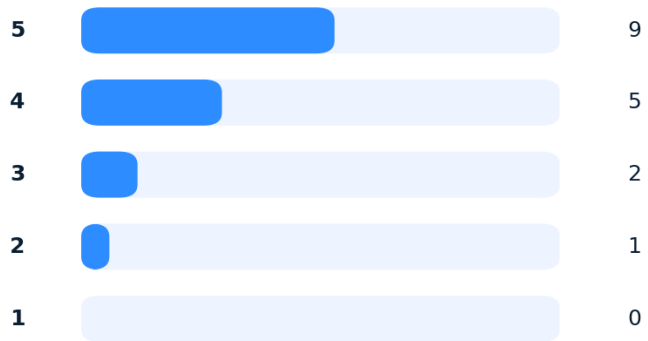
Please take a moment to answer the poll

# Webinar poll results

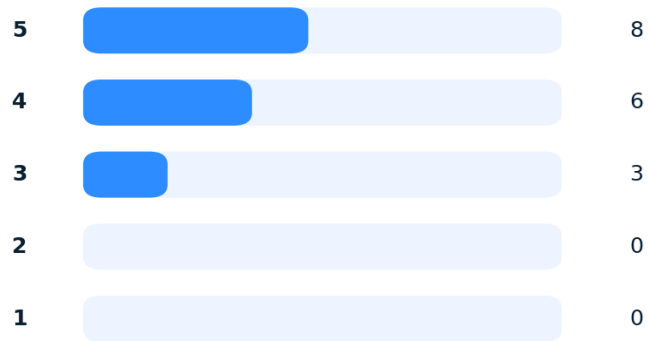
Addressing Gender and C/D/E through transformative action

**17**
responses

## 1 How useful was the webinar in the context of your work?




## 2 How would you rate the quality of the webinar?




## 3 Would you be interested in a more in-depth follow-up event?

**17** YES — 100% of respondents



Anonymous summary • total responses only

# WRAP UP



## THANK YOU

To all participants, speakers and co-organizers for making this event happen.



## JOIN US NEXT TIME

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## STAY TUNED

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Or contact
cde-network@eda.admin.ch



Organisers & speakers: please remain online for a few minutes

