

Five Dimensions of Feminist Climate Finance



This framework outlines five dimensions necessary to understand and implement feminist climate finance. These dimensions contribute to the analysis of existing efforts to achieve gender equality and address the root causes of climate change and climate impacts, as well as to operationalize measures to work toward a feminist climate finance system.



1 Ambitious, Adequate and Appropriate Finance

Feminist climate finance cannot be achieved without considering *all* climate finance. It must promote overall climate finance flows that are ambitious in comparison to current finance, adequate to the scale and depth of the gender-differentiated climate needs, and appropriate to deliver transformative climate action within an appreciation of global and national mechanisms and systems and their limitations.

Key Actions:

- **Increase bilateral and multilateral funding** based on a fair-shares portion of an international assessment of needs for developing countries for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage, with the majority of funding provided in grants and highly-concessional loans. In increasing this funding, ensure it is redirected from harm and that no funds are raised from regressive measures that have negative, gendered impacts.
- **Direct the majority of multilateral funding to multilateral climate funds** with shared governance structures, such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.
- **Dramatically scale funding to women's funds** as proven and effective intermediaries.

2 Accessible Finance

Feminist climate finance must be accessible by and delivered directly to grassroots groups, community-led organizations and Indigenous Peoples working at the intersection of gender and climate justice. Echoing the “nothing about us, without us” truism, direct access recognizes and values the work already happening at the community level that is under-resourced and under-capacitated. Additionally, accessible finance should not be understood simply as direct access, where grants flow directly to local actors, but should also encompass a range of options that improve the overall accessibility of finance by local actors within the current climate finance architecture.

Key Actions:

- **Integrate local actors** into capacity-strengthening for institutional actors on gender and Indigenous Peoples and the design, implementation, and monitoring of climate projects.
- **Prioritize the scaling and replication of gender-just climate solutions** in adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage, including as part of national and regional climate planning and policymaking processes.
- **Utilize women's funds** as experienced intermediaries to ensure funding flows directly to grassroots groups and other local actors centering gender and climate justice.

- **Ensure direct access mechanisms** are built into each adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage program within multilateral and bilateral funds, with process considerations for enhancing the accessibility of funding across all programming, including technical assistance and language justice.
- Create ways for these mechanisms to **inform larger investment** and policy priorities and strategies.

3 Gender-Transformative Finance

Feminist climate finance effectively and sustainably addresses the root causes of climate change, and engages with the exacerbation of gender inequality by gender-blind climate projects. By supporting transformative approaches that promote and advance gender equality within a human rights framework, the selection and implementation of climate finance projects can materially, sustainably advance gender equality in alignment with international commitments.

Key Actions:

- Promote and enact the **highest standard for gender analysis, action and targets** within all climate projects—informed by gender-disaggregated data—with accountability for results, while providing access to capacity-strengthening and learning networks at low-to-no cost for public and civil society actors.
- Ensure gender-transformative approaches are enacted across **mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage** funding, including respecting and integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge.
- **Allocate additional resources** to the implementation and monitoring of gender-related policies within bilateral and multilateral funding, with resources for capacity-strengthening of implementing entities, knowledge-sharing, and participatory monitoring by feminist groups.
- **Do not fund any climate action that does not advance gender equality** and that does not seek to challenge unjust, unequal and harmful norms, practices and policies and improve upon the status quo in a way that centers human rights.

4 Accountable Finance

Feminist climate finance enables stakeholders and particularly rightsholders to follow the funding, understand to what and to whom it is flowing, and engage in the processes that surround the funding. Advancing gender equality and addressing the climate crisis cannot be achieved without processes that are not only transparent (and indeed, accessible), but also accountable to those who should be benefiting from climate finance. Accountability must also be ensured through processes for addressing harm, including independent grievance mechanisms.

Key Actions:

- Ensure all bilateral and multilateral funding **decision-making processes are transparent and engage rights-holders**, followed by stakeholders, in determining priorities for climate finance flows in accordance with science and country needs and priorities.
- **Make funding transparent so it can be followed to the lowest level** that is safe for beneficiaries, protecting women environmental human rights defenders, with clear access to information related to project implementation and seeking redress, including in local languages. The responsibility of information access is greater the larger the project, in funds or geographical scope, and whenever decision-making is not led by local actors.
- Outline processes for project origination, design, and prioritization transparently and require the **participation of rights-holders in each step of the potential project cycle**.

5 Finance that Changes the System

Feminist climate finance must recognize and challenge the inherently unfeminist structures of the current global financial architecture, in line with the recognition that transformation is necessary to deliver climate and economic justice for people and planet. While individual initiatives can strive to enact feminist climate finance within their sphere of authority, these efforts must be connected to broader advocacy. Feminist climate finance also recognizes that climate is interlinked across sectors and with global challenges related to health, biodiversity, democratic governance, and peace-building. Without addressing the root causes of the climate crisis—extractive capitalism, imperialism and neo-colonialism, militarism, and the patriarchy—solutions cannot be true solutions. Feminist climate finance cannot support false solutions that distract from real solutions, rely on unproven technologies, and/or violate the right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent from Indigenous Peoples.

Key Actions

- **Support advocacy** and leverage influence in international negotiations and other decision-making spaces to promote ambitious, adequate, appropriate, accessible, gender-transformative and accountable finance.
- Use both processes and results in bilateral, multilateral and philanthropic funding that pursues these aims to **call for additional funding** and demonstrate how it can be absorbed into your funding structure efficiently and effectively.
- **Support feminist movement building**, enabling more connected and coordinated communications, advocacy and technical expertise on the pathways to effectively achieve feminist climate finance.
- **Re-orient toward an outcome-driven process** (e.g., gender equality, climate justice, limiting temperature rise) rather than continued adherence to status quo processes and cycles that have not raised ambition or generated feminist outcomes.