



InsuResilience
GlobalPartnership

Step by Step Guidance:
Gender-Lens Investing
in Climate and Disaster Risk
Financing and Insurance (CDRFI)
Solutions



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InsuResilience
Centre of
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Solutions

InsuResilience Global Partnership

Step by Step Guidance:

Gender-Lens Investing in Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (CDRFI) Solutions

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Executive Summary

Gender-smart public and private investments and grants in Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) hold significant potential to strengthen the resilience of developing countries and to protect the lives and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable women and men, and their families from the impact of disasters. This guidance note specifically focuses on the deployment of development finance with a gender lens in CDRFI-related investment and grant making opportunities to fill an existing gap in practical resources on this topic. It is intended for Members of the InsuResilience Global Partnership (IGP) and the broader CDRFI community that are involved in the financing (public and private investing and grant making), design and implementation of gender-smart CDRFI solutions.

Gender-lens investing in CDRFI is a sub-set of gender-smart climate finance, which lies at the nexus of gender finance and climate finance. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognises that gender-smart climate finance considers “the differences between men and women in what and how we finance”. Gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions involves incorporating a gender analysis in the process of directing CDRFI investments and grants into activities or organisations which support climate and disaster resilience building and risk protection. It is an approach that can provide financial protection and build the climate resilience of the people most vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

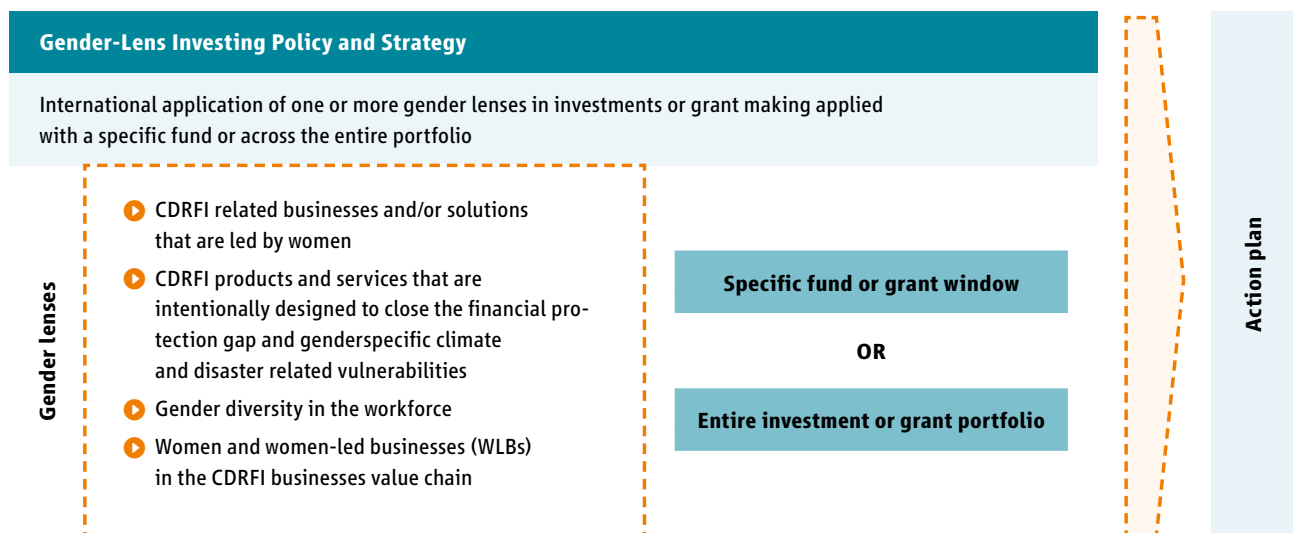
There is no standard approach to gender-lens investing more generally and specifically in CDRFI. It is commonly agreed that one or more strategies or ‘gender lenses’ may be applied by investors and grant makers as they apply an intentional gender focus in their investments across asset classes using public and private capital. This maybe in a specific CDRFI investment or grant, or across an entire investment or grant making portfolio. These commonly applied strategies, often referred to as gender-lenses, can be adapted to the field of CDRFI, within the wider framework of gender-smart climate finance. These strategies include: investing in CDRFI-related businesses or solutions that are: 1) led by women; 2) provide CDRFI products and services that are intentionally designed to close the financial protection gap and address gender-specific climate and disaster related vulnerabilities; 3) promote gender diversity in the workforce; and/or 4) provide specific support and opportunities for women and women-led or owned businesses in the CDRFI value chain (e.g., women insurance sales agents and women insurance distributors).¹ (Figure 1)

1 Adapted from V4W, 2020.

This guidance sets out a series of questions on how investment funds and CDRFI programmes can integrate gender considerations ('apply a gender lens') through their grant making and investment decisions. These questions are structured around different entry points for gender-lens investing: in the investment policy, strategies and action plans that intentionally incorporate a gender focus in the allocation of capital; in the investment and grant making process; and also, internally within the investment or grant making entity, in terms of the gender diversity of its own workforce and its organizational policies and practices to promote gender equality. (Figure 2)

This publication provides case study examples of different organizations that have applied gender considerations in investing and grant making in CDRFI solutions, and more broadly in climate finance, from within and beyond the IGP. (Figure 3) Additionally, this guidance references relevant IGP and third-party resources including from the 2X Climate Finance Taskforce, GenderSmart Gender & Climate Investment Working Group, Equilo, SEAF, Value for Women, UNICEF and Criterion Institute among others. These resources can support Members, programmes under the Partnership and others address potential challenges and opportunities to further enhance their gender-smart investments and grant making into CDRFI solutions.

Figure 1: Strategic approaches to gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions



From **Figures 2** and the table of contents, you can **navigate** directly to the section and associated questions of most relevance to your role and the stage of the process you are engaged in the deployment of different forms of capital in gender-smart CDRFI solutions.

Figure 2: Guidance on practical steps by gender-lens investing entry point

Policy, Strategy & Action Plan	Investment & Grant Making Process	Internal Gender Diversity
Investment and grant making strategies which incorporate an intentional gender focus in the allocation of capital to CDRFI	Integration of gender considerations at all stages of the CDRFI investment and grant process	Addressing gender diversity within the CDRFI investment firm or grant making organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build the business case ✓ Identify material gender risks and opportunities for CDRFI-related investments and grants ✓ Commit to the 2X Challenge ✓ Adopt a gender policy or strategy and create an action plan for implementation ✓ Create a women-targeted investment product, fund or grant financing window ✓ Set portfolio gender and climate investments targets ✓ Allocate human and financial resources for policy & strategy implementation ✓ Engage with others on gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrate gender criteria into deal origination and sourcing ✓ Gather gender and sex-disaggregated data as part of due diligence process ✓ Apply gender criteria in the investment and grant selection process ✓ Build in gender-related conditions into investment and grant agreements ✓ Provide gender and CDRFI capacity building ✓ Offer technical support on gender to grantees and investees ✓ Gather sex-disaggregated and gender performance data from investees and grantees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conduct a self-assessment on the organization's existing gender workforce policies, practices and performance ✓ Require gender diversity in the investment and grant making committee, investment team and overall workforce ✓ Strengthen internal workforce policies to create a gender-inclusive workplace and workforce including in the investment team

Figure 3: Examples of organizations applying gender considerations in their investment and grant making process

Examples of Investors & Grant Makers	
Adaption Fund (AF)	InsuResilience Solutions Fund (ISF)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	KFW DEG
Asia-Pacific Climate Finance Fund (ACLIF)	Kiva Capital
BlueOrchard Finance Ltd	Root Capital
British International Investment (BII)	SEAF
Climate Investment Fund (CIF)	United Nations ESCAP, Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund
Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Gender Responsive Climate Finance Window	Women's World Banking Asset Management
Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF)	Capital Partners
InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF)	

Abbreviations

AF	Adaptation Fund
BII	British International Investment (formerly called CDC Group)
BMZ	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CDRFI	Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CRI	Climate risk insurance
DEG	Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH
DFI	Development Finance Institution
G7	Group of 7
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDFD	Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GIIN	Global Impact Investment Network
GLI	Gender-lens investing
GRiF	Global Risk Financing Facility
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IIF	InsuResilience Investment Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPV	Intimate partner violence
ISF	InsuResilience Solutions Fund
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
SIF	Sustainable Insurance Facility
TA	Technical assistance
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
V4W	Value for Women
WAM	Women's World Banking Asset Management
WBG	World Bank Group
V20	The Vulnerable Twenty Group

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1 Introduction

Currently investment and grants in climate and disaster risk finance and insurance (CDRFI) solutions do not take a comprehensive approach to integrating gender considerations. This is in part due to a lack of resources for investors and grant makers on how to apply gender-lens investing approaches in the financing, design, and implementation of gender-smart CDRFI solutions. This is in a context where applying a gender lens through public and private investments and grants in CDRFI solutions can achieve both financial returns and reap positive development impact.² The development returns include protecting the lives and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people from the impacts of climate shocks and disasters and advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Therefore, this practical guidance seeks to close this gap in a context where there is increasing policy and investor focus on this topic particularly among development finance institutions (DFIs).

Defining gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions

Gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions is a sub-set of gender-smart climate finance, which lies at the nexus of gender finance and climate finance. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has no formally agreed definition of climate finance. The current Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) definition is *"the financial resources devoted to addressing climate change by all public and private actors from global to local scales, including international financial flows to developing countries to assist them in addressing climate change."*³ In this framework, climate-smart investing involves directing public, private or development sector finance into activities or organisations which directly support climate change mitigation or adaptation alongside financial returns.⁴

Meanwhile, there is growing interest in field of gender-lens investing or gender finance, which involves integrating gender-based factors into investment strategy and analysis in order to increase returns and impact.⁵ The G7 and DFIs, including members of the IGP, have created a specific aim to empower women through investment and collectively mobilized US\$11.4 billion for gender-lens investing through the 2X Challenge Initiative.⁶ (Box 1).

2 McKinsey Global Institute, 2015.

3 IPCC, 2022. (page 3043 in full report)

4 GenderSmart and Kite Insights, 2021.

5 Criterion Institute, 2015.

6 <https://www.2xchallenge.org/>

Box 1

The 2X Challenge

The 2X Challenge was launched at the G7 in 2018 with the mission to encourage development finance institutions (DFIs) and the private sector to invest in the world's women. It called for the G7 and other DFIs to collectively mobilize US\$ 3 billion in commitments that provide women in developing country markets with improved access to leadership opportunities, quality employment, finance, enterprise support and products and services that enhance economic participation and access. This initial target was exceeded and collectively US\$ 11.4 billion was both committed and mobilized for gender-lens investing by the end of 2020. Building on this, the G7 and DFIs have set a new target to empower women through mobilizing investment of US\$ 15 billion from 2021 to 2022.⁷ Fulfilling one of a number of criteria that makes an investment 2X eligible. These are:

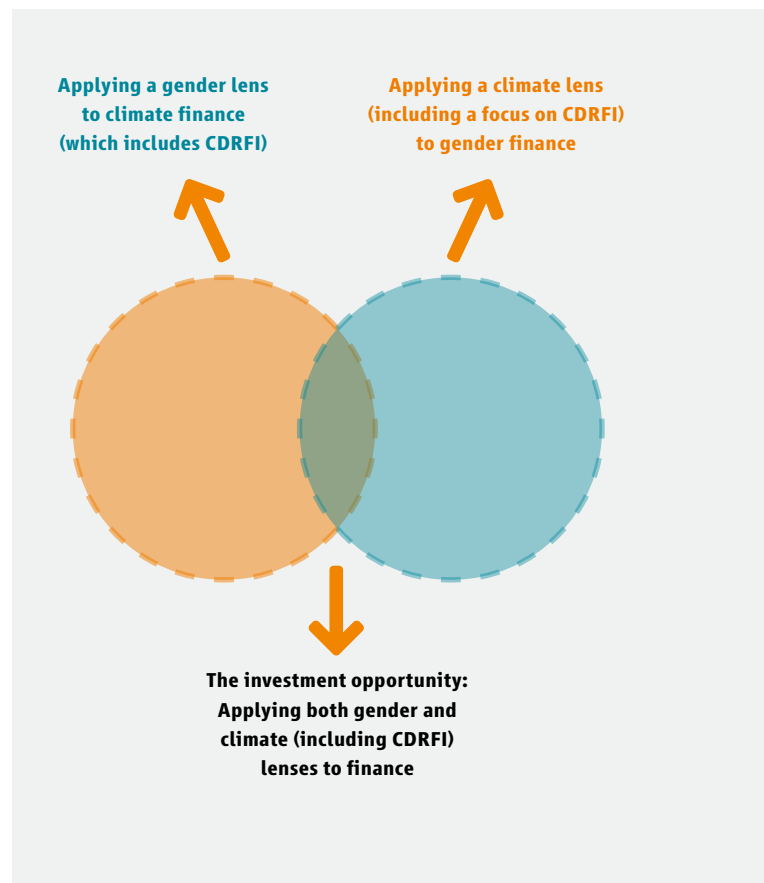
- › Entrepreneurship: 51% women ownership or the business is founded by a woman.
- › Leadership: 30% women in senior leadership or 30% women on the Board or Investment Committee.
- › Employment: 30-50% share of women in the workforce (depending on the sector) and one 'quality' indicator beyond compliance.
- › Consumption: Product or service that specifically or disproportionately benefit women.
- › Investments through financial intermediaries: 30% of the DFI loan proceeds or portfolio companies meet the 2X Criteria.⁸

Building on the success of the 2XChallenge, in 2021 the 2XCollaborative was established as a new industry body to convene gender-lens investors globally and help them with their gender-focused investments.⁹ In June 2022, the 2XCollaborative announced the launch of a co-creation process to develop an independent 2Xcertification mechanism for the investment industry. The 2XCertification mechanism aims to create more transparency, credibility, and impact in the global field of gender-lens investing by providing a clear benchmarking framework with different levels of ambition and third-party assurance around the 2X Investment Framework.¹⁰

Within this framework, there is a growing commitment among a broad range of investor types to merge the gender and climate agendas, and in doing so apply a gender lens to climate finance and a climate lens to gender finance. (Figure 4) According to GenderSmart, "it is about bringing a climate and gender lens together not only in what we're investing in, but who, and how, and into companies as well as funds and financial institutions",¹¹ This trend acknowledged by the IPCC which explains that "gender-smart climate finance considers the differences between men and women 'in what and how we finance'".¹²

Gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions involves incorporating a gender analysis in the process of directing CDRFI investments and grants into activities or organisations which support climate and disaster resilience building and risk protection. It is a gender-smart approach that can build the climate resilience of the people most vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

Figure 4: Overlapping fields of gender-finance with climate finance



Source: Adapted from GenderSmart and Kite Insights, 2021.

7 <https://www.2xchallenge.org/>

8 <https://www.2xchallenge.org/criteria>

9 <https://www.2xcollaborative.org/>

10 <https://www.2xchallenge.org/press-news/2022/6/27/new-2x-certification-mechanism-to-enhance-transparency-credibility-amp-impact-in-gender-lens-investing>

11 GenderSmart and Kite Insights, 2021.

12 <https://19thnews.org/2022/04/ipcc-report-women-gender-inclusion-climate-solutions/>

Figure 5: An overview of the main entry points for gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions

Policy, Strategy & Action Plan	Investment & Grant Making Process	Internal Gender Diversity
Investment and grant making strategies which incorporate an intentional gender focus in the allocation of capital to CDRFI	Integration of gender considerations at all stages of the CDRFI investment and grant process	Addressing gender diversity within the CDRFI investment firm or grant making organization

Entry points to gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions

There are a range of different gender-lens investing entry points for CDRFI investors and grant makers: a) the investment policy, strategy and/or action plan; b) the investment and grant making process; and c) internal gender diversity within the investment and grant making organization itself. (Figure 5)

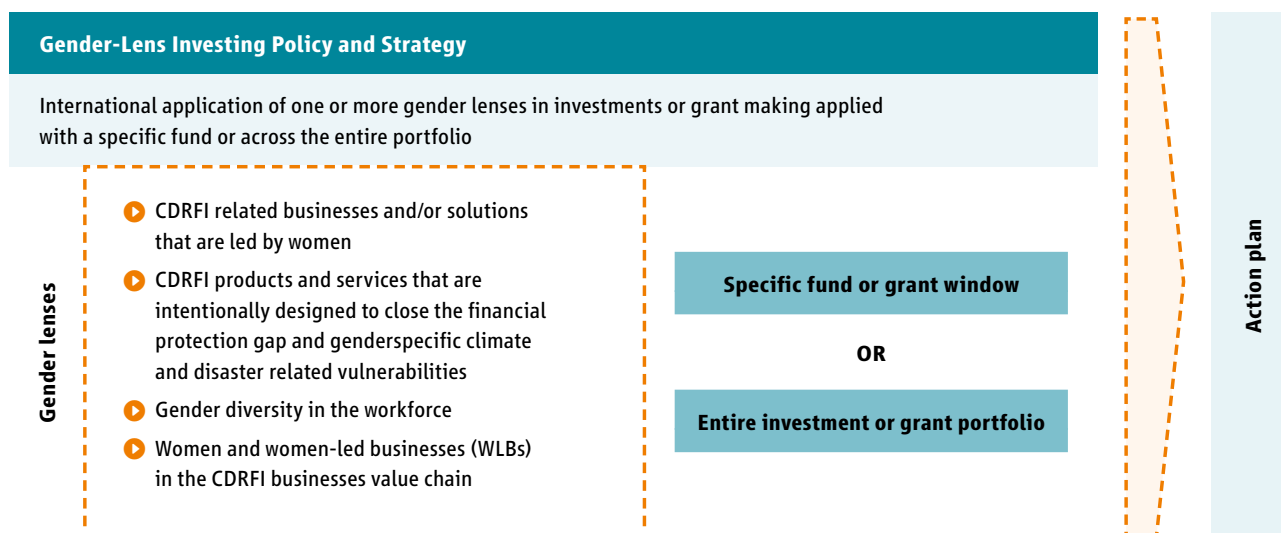
a) Investment Policy, Strategy and/or Action Plan: Firstly, within the broader field, it is commonly agreed that one or more strategies or ‘gender lenses’ may be applied by investors and grant makers as they apply an intentional gender focus in their investments across asset classes of public and private capital. (Figure 6) This investment strategy may be incorporated into a specific CDRFI investment or grant funding window, or across an entire investment or grant making portfolio. These commonly applied gender lenses adapted to the field of CDRFI

(within the wider field of climate finance) include: investing in CDRFI-related businesses or solutions that are:

- › led by women;
- › provide CDRFI products and services that are intentionally designed to close the financial protection gap and address gender-specific climate and disaster related vulnerabilities;
- › promote gender diversity in the workforce; and/or
- › provide specific support and opportunities for women and women-led or owned businesses in the CDRFI value chain (e.g., women insurance sales agents and women insurance distributors).¹³

A strategic approach to gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions may be documented in either a gender policy and strategy and/or action plan.

Figure 6: Strategic approaches to gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions

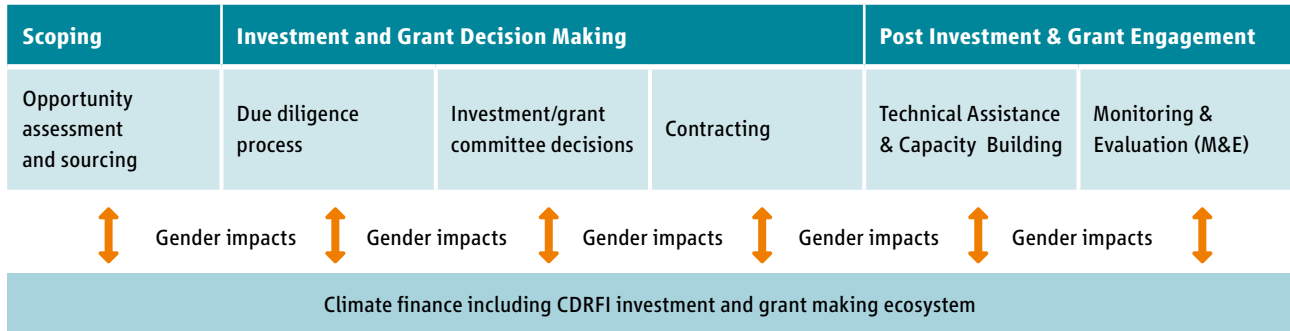


¹³ Adapted from V4W, 2020.

b) The Investment and Grant Making Process: Gender dynamics are all pervasive. Therefore, it is not enough to consider gender criteria within an investment or grant making strategy alone. Gender-lens investing also involves the integration of gender considerations at all stages of the investment and grant making process in the implementation of the investment strategy.

This includes the project/ investment scoping and needs assessment process, and sourcing of investable opportunities; the due diligence process; the investment committee decision making process; contracting; and post investment engagement in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of investments or grants and any technical assistance provided to investees or grantees. (Figure 7)

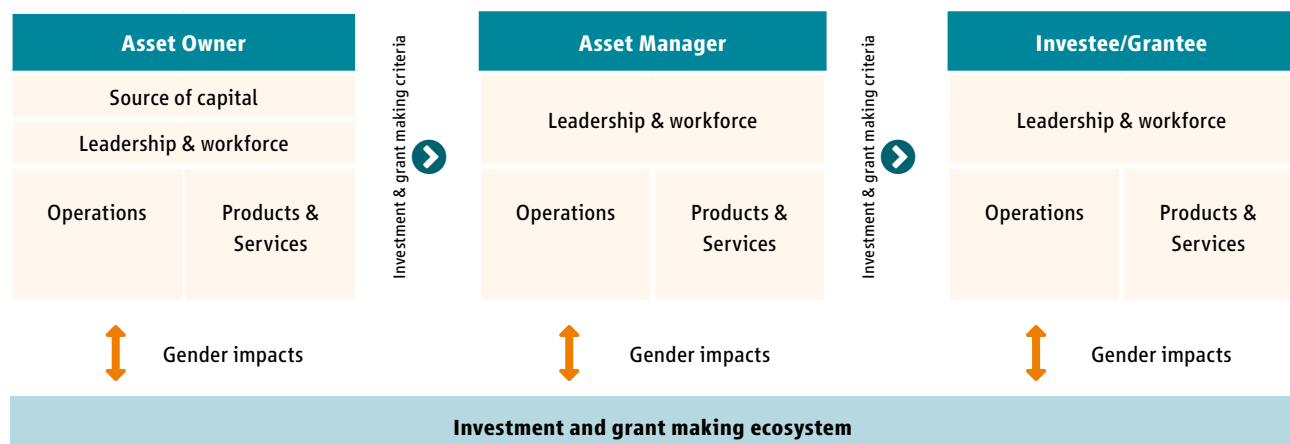
Figure 7: Gender impacts across the CDRFI investment and grant making process



c) Internal Gender Diversity: The investment firm has gender impacts on its own workforce resulting from its own organisational practices. As such, it is widely recognized that gender-lens investing (including in CDRFI solutions) also involves addressing gender diversity within the investment firm or grant making

organization. This includes promoting gender equity through its organisational policies and practices related to its leadership and workforce, operations and products and services, e.g., flexible working and parental leave policies, and ensuring women’s participation at all levels of the organization.¹⁴ (Figure 8)

Figure 8: The gender impacts of the investment value chain



Source: Adapted from Goddard & Miles, 2016.

14 V4W, 2020.



Why integrate a gender lens in CDRFI investments and grant making?

Integrating a gender lens in investments in CDRFI solutions can help to uncover new investment opportunities; mitigate risks; meeting investors' expectations; and ultimately drive long-term value and amplify social impact related to gender equality.¹⁵

The IGP publication [Applying a Gender Lens to Climate Risk and Insurance](#) and [Integrating Gender Considerations into Different Models of Climate Risk Insurance \(CRI\)](#) set out the business case to focus on the gender dimensions of climate risk insurance from different perspectives within the investment value chain.

The argument is founded on the evidence that women and girls and men and boys, can be differentially impacted by climate change and disasters. They can also be differently involved and engaged in diverse CRI models as investors, employees, customers, and partners within the wider value chain due to their greater levels of exclusion from the formal economy and financial system based on their gender. There is also evidence of the commercial benefits of integrating women as corporate clients, leaders, employees, and investors into private sector business models. This is complemented by growing evidence of the benefits of women's financial service provider leadership, and economic participation as employees and entrepreneurs.¹⁶

In this context, the IGP Declaration on Gender calls on Members of the Partnership aspire to 'incorporate gender lens grant allocation investment criteria into the Programme Alliance funding mechanisms for CDRFI and other relevant programmes'.¹⁷

About this guidance note

This guidance note aims to provide Members of the Partnership and the broader CDRFI community with practical step-by-step guidance on public and private investing and grant making in gender-smart CDRFI solutions. In doing so, it provides advice on how investment funds and CDRFI programmes can integrate gender considerations ('apply a gender lens') through their grant making and investment decisions at different steps of the process. It specifically focuses on the deployment of public and private development finance with a gender lens in CDRFI-related investment and grant making opportunities. The intended audience is stakeholders from diverse backgrounds within and beyond the Partnership that are involved in the development and grant financing, design (e.g., bilateral, multilateral donors, and development finance institutions, implementing partners, programmes with financing facilities) and implementation (programme partners) of gender-smart CDRFI solutions.

In addition, this guidance provides illustrative case study examples of different organizations that have applied gender considerations into CDRFI-related investing and grant making in practice and more broadly in climate finance, from within and beyond the IGP membership. Tips from professionals working in this area are provided drawn from the stakeholder consultation process for this publication. Third-party resources provide support to Members, programmes under the partnership and others and showcase potential challenges and opportunities to further enhance gender-smart investments and grant making into CDRFI solutions.

¹⁵ GenderSmart and Kite Insights, 2021.

¹⁶ InsuResilience, 2018 & 2019.

¹⁷ InsuResilience, 2020.

2 Gender-Lens Investing Policy, Strategy and Action Plan

This section focuses on the entry point of a policy, strategy, and action plan for gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions. This is the process developing an investment and grant making strategy which incorporates an intentional gender focus in the allocation of capital to CDRFI solutions.

2.1 Have you built the business case to secure internal buy-in for applying a gender lens specifically in CDRFI investments and grant allocation?

Build the business case among the leadership team and at all levels of the organization to achieve buy-in for gender-lens investing. For example, gender-lens investing advocates within British International Investment (BII) (formerly CDC Group), the UK's development finance institution, provided data on the financial risks and opportunities and examples of existing approaches by other investors to its leadership team. It also created a Gender Toolkit to support colleagues with gender-lens investing. This helped secure buy-in and develop BII's approach to gender-lens investing and gave the leadership 'the comfort it's the right thing to do, feasible thing to do, and business thing to do'.

Draw on existing resources to build the business case for gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions. These resources may be specific to the gender dimensions of CDRFI solutions, or more general. For example, publications from the InsuResilience Centre of Excellence on Gender-smart Solutions¹⁸ set out this case and evidence within CDRFI business models and related to insurance inclusion but are not specific to investment within these businesses or specific to climate risk insurance. Additionally, there are resources that focus more specifically on gender and climate finance investments but are not specific to CDRFI solutions as an investment focus within climate finance. GenderSmart, a global field-building initiative, has produced a report Gender & Climate Investment: A Strategy for Unlocking a Sustainable Future.¹⁹ More broadly, gender-lens investing landscape studies and publications that build the business case for applying a gender lens in any investment and grant making specific to a particular market or sector, e.g. the financial sector, can be drawn on for data and case study examples (Box 2).

18 <https://coe.insuresilience.org/>

19 Gender Smart & Kite Insights, 2021.

Box 2

Resources to build the business case

- › Applying a gender lens to climate risk finance and insurance²⁰
- › Integrating gender into different models of climate risk insurance (CRI)21
- › Gender & Climate Investment: A Strategy for Unlocking a Sustainable Future²²
- › Strengthening gender equality and resilience through innovative climate-risk finance²³
- › 2X Climate Finance Taskforce Gender-Smart Climate Finance Guide
- › Gender-Lens Investing Landscape: Gaps, Challenges, and Opportunities in Financial Inclusion for Women²⁴
- › Mainstreaming Gender and Targeting Women in Inclusive Insurance: Perspectives and Emerging Lessons²⁵
- › From Innovation to Learning A Strategic Evidence Roadmap for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance²⁶

2.2 Have you identified the material gender risks and opportunities for your CDRFI-related investments and grants?

Conduct a materiality assessment to identify the material gender-related climate and disaster risks and opportunities for your investments. These may vary based on the cultural and geographic context and sector of your investments. For example, in addition to being a human rights issue, gender-based violence (GBV) may also be a material gender issue to climate and disaster risk finance for CDRFI investments and grants. This is founded on the evidence base that gender-based violence can increase after climate-related disasters.²⁷ For instance, the World Bank uses its financing to address the issue of GBV (Box 3). For a material issue such as GBV it is recommended investors and their portfolio companies connect with organizations with technical expertise in this area.

20 InsuResilience, 2018.

21 InsuResilience, 2019.

22 Gender Smart & Kite Insights, 2021.

23 GIZ, 2022.

24 USAID, 2021.

25 GIZ, IFC & WWB, 2017.

26 InsuResilience & MCII, 2021.

27 UNICEF & Criterion Institute, 2020.

Box 3

World Bank and financing to combat GBV

The World Bank Group (WBG) has a GBV risk assessment tool and methodology to assess contextual and project-related risks for its financing²⁸, as well as a Good Practice Note on Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Sexual Harassment in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civic Works.²⁹ The WBG also uses its finance to address GBV. It supports over US\$300 million in development projects aimed at addressing GBV in WBG-financed operations, both through standalone projects and through the integration of GBV components in sector-specific projects in areas such as transport, education, social protection, and forced displacement.³⁰

Draw on existing gender tools to identify risks and opportunities. A range of resources and tools exist that highlight and support internal analysis of how gender dimensions of climate induced disasters present risks and opportunities for investments and grant making, for example from [Equilo](#) (Box 4). Some resources may not be specific to the gender dimensions of climate and disaster risk but could be relevant in understanding specific impacts. For example, the WBG has a research programme called the [Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement \(GDFD\)](#) and has conducted a [synthesis of research on the theme](#).^{31 32} This could be applicable to understand the gender-dimensions of climate and disaster induced displacement.

Box 4

Equilo resources

Equilo provides free open-source Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) analysis tools and GESI analytics products to support gender-lens investment. Equilo has a GESI contextual analysis tool, which can understand GESI risks and opportunities for a country and sector. Sector analysis tools³³ of relevance to climate and disaster risk finance are available for the following sectors: finance, infrastructure and environment and climate action. Equilo also provide a subscription database of a pipeline of deals that have been assessed against the 2X Criteria (see Box 1).³⁴

Some tools and resources are specific to climate finance and gender issues in general such as those from the [2X Climate Finance Taskforce](#) supported by BII, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (Box 5). Other resources are focused on the intersection of climate finance and specific gender issues such as GBV, such as that from UNICEF and Criterion Institute (Box 6). Additionally, draw on tools and resources that may not specifically focus on the intersection of climate and gender related risks but are still relevant in that they highlight the materiality of gender related risks for development banks or the financial sector. For example, to support its investments, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has a Gender Risk Assessment Tool (GRAT).³⁵ Criterion Institute has a range of resources on gender-lens investing in general including on why gender is material to investments in recovery from the COVID pandemic, which provides insights of relevance for post climate disaster recovery.³⁶

28 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialsustainability/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls>

29 World Bank, 2020.

30 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialsustainability/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls>

31 World Bank (Klugman), 2022.

32 See: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/gender/brief/gender-dimensions-of-forced-displacement-gdfd-research-program>

33 <https://www.equilo.io/sectors>

34 <https://www.equilo.io/>

35 IDB, 2020.

36 Criterion Institute, undated.



Box 5

2X Climate Finance Taskforce

The 2X Climate Finance Taskforce has published a [Gender-Smart Climate Finance Guide](#) to enable investors to identify opportunities and mitigate risks in gender and climate finance. It includes an overview of the what, why and how of gender-smart climate finance; guidance and tools for integrating gender in the climate finance investment process; notes on how to implement gender-smart climate finance across different sectors and themes; case studies; and impact measurement advice.³⁷ The sector notes of most relevance to CDRFI solutions are the notes on Sustainable agriculture, food and forestry; and financial services, the latter of which includes a case study on the BlueOrchard managed InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF).³⁸

³⁷ 2X Climate Finance Taskforce 2021.

³⁸ 2X Collaborative, 2X Climate Finance Taskforce, CDC Group plc, European Investment Bank (EIB), & European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), 2021 a & b.

Box 6

Gender Based Violence and Climate Finance

UNICEF and Criterion have explored how gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies can be understood as material to investment decision making in post-disaster financing and that gender responsive climate and disaster financing can be a means of increasing GBV resilience. In a briefing [on the theme](#), they advise financial actors to use GBV data especially in the context of emergencies to evaluate material risk to potential investments and price in GBV in risk models; use the structures and terms of finance to direct capital towards GBV programming or programming that addresses the reduction of GBV; and directly invest in products, services or infrastructure which mitigates or decreases the likelihood of GBV occurring.³⁹ In doing so, they highlight the opportunity of designing gender-responsive climate financing to address GBV and ask the following questions: What changes in process and policy around climate and disaster risk insurance would make these products more GBV responsive?; How can gender assessments for infrastructure projects be mainstreamed within climate financing and climate funds?; What role can climate insurers play in shaping the capital market's understanding of GBV as a material risk?; How might GBV's material relevance to a nation's resilience and economic standing be integrated into climate risk insurance assessments?; and How can liquidity thresholds in disaster risk financing be made sensitive to GBV needs?.

³⁹ UNICEF & Criterion Institute, 2020.

2.3 Have you committed to the 2X Challenge?

Consider making a public commitment to the 2X Challenge.

This can help structure internal and external conversations about gender-lens investing. (Box 1). Join forces with the many investors that have signed up to the 2X Challenge and the 2X Collaborative. BII, KfW DEG and the InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF) have all made commitments toward the 2X Challenge. Note that the 2X Challenge states that all commitments to achieve the Challenge criteria must include clear objectives and be monitorable. Moreover, they must be presented in a formal, written commitment such as a side letter or in a Memorandum of Understanding, gender action plan with senior level oversight, or similar document.⁴⁰ More generally, public commitments can be made to promoting gender equity within investments. For instance, while not specific to risk financing, the ADB has a commitment to supporting gender equality through gender inclusive projects in at least 75% of its sovereign and non-sovereign operations by 2030, and for the same percentage to support climate change and adaptation. This is in line with its operational priority of accelerating gender equality.⁴¹

Ensure that human resources are dedicated to implementing the commitment. For instance, BII (formerly known as CDC Group) has created a gender lead and has five people in the gender team. Moreover, it has established internal working groups to support the implementation of its gender-related commitments for all three of its investment sectors of focus namely, the financial sector, infrastructure, and climate.

2.4 Have you conducted a portfolio gender assessment on your existing investments and grants?

Conduct a gender analysis on your portfolio data of existing CDRFI-related investments. The IGP gender indicators and associated questions within its M&E framework can provide a starting point to assess whether relevant gender data is being collected.⁴² Some tools exist that are not specific to CDRFI-related investment portfolios but may be of value. For instance, Value for Women offer a gender-lens investing survey through its [Gender Smart Nexus](#) that highlights the opportunities and progress towards gender inclusive practices at a portfolio level to support the identification of potential entry points for gender-inclusive actions within a portfolio.⁴³

Draw insights from your existing investments. A gender analysis on the status of an existing investment and grant portfolio overall can reveal the extent to which investees or grantees meet gender lens criteria in general. It can specifically allow you to determine whether any existing investments or grants fit the 2X Criteria and related indicators or goes beyond these.⁴⁴ This can involve an analysis of sex-disaggregated data on the ownership and governance of the organizations of investees or grantees, or the number of women in the workforce. This sex-disaggregated data analysis is different from analyses on policies, practices, and performances of investees and grantees. For example, SEAF, an investment management group focused on providing growth capital to SMEs in emerging markets, has created a Gender Equality Scorecard© (GES©) and accompanying manual to assess women's economic empowerment and gender equality within its investment opportunities and portfolio companies.⁴⁵

2.5 Have you defined an intentional gender policy or strategy for the fund or portfolio and created an action plan for implementation?

Apply an existing gender policy or gender considerations within existing broader policies to inform decisions on investment and grant making. For example, some gender considerations are incorporated into the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework applied in its financing.⁴⁶ The Adaptation Fund (AF) (Box 7) and Climate Investment Fund (CIF) are examples of climate funds with standalone gender policies that inform climate financing decisions.⁴⁷

40 2X Challenge, 2021.

41 <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/themes/gender/main#:~:text=ADB%20is%20working%20across%20Asia,green%2C%20equitable%20and%20inclusive%20developmentgreen%2C%20equitable%20and%20inclusive%20development> .

42 InsuResilience, 2021.

43 <https://v4w.org/gendersmartnexus/>

44 <https://www.2xchallenge.org/criteria>

45 <https://www.seaf.com/womens-economic-empowerment-and-gender-equality/gender-equality-scorecard/>

46 World Bank, 2017.

47 CIF, 2018.



Box 7

Adaptation Fund Gender Policy

About. The Adaptation Fund (AF), the first international climate fund dedicated to financing projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change. Initiatives are based on country needs, views, and priorities. Since 2010, the AF has committed US\$ 923.5 million to projects and programmes to date, including 127 concrete projects. This spans nearly 100 countries, including 19 small island developing states and 33 least developed countries, serving about 36 million total beneficiaries. The Fund is financed largely by government and private donors, and from a two percent share of proceeds of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) issued under the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism projects.⁴⁸ It will be also financed from the share of proceeds from the mechanism established by Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement when it becomes available.

Gender policy and action plan. Before adopting a formal standalone gender policy, gender considerations were integrated into the AF’s operations as part of its environmental and social policy approved in 2013. This focus was to address any adverse social harms including related to gender. It stated that ‘Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in such a way that both women and men (a) are able to participate fully and equitably; (b) receive comparable social and economic benefits; and (c) do not suffer disproportionate adverse effects during the development process.’⁴⁹

In 2015 the AF developed a standalone human rights-based gender policy approved in 2016. This saw the adoption of a more proactive gender approach throughout its operations and strengthened the requirements within funding proposals to increase the level of gender ambition. Subsequently the policy was further strengthened in 2021 to account for the intersectional nature of gender, reaffirming its commitment towards a gender-transformative climate adaptation.⁵⁰ The gender policy ‘strengthened efforts to move the Fund and its partners beyond narrowly focusing on gender safeguards and prevention of gendered harm to pro-actively addressing how adaptation measures can promote gender equality, the empowerment and agency of women and girls, and consider and address, to the extent possible, gender differentiated vulnerability to climate change in an intersectional manner as well as support the socio-cultural and institutional changes among its partners necessary to sustain such progress.’ The Adaptation Fund has a guidance document that supports implementing entities (i.e., those receiving its financing) to comply with its gender policy throughout their project/programme life cycle.⁵¹ In line with AF constant efforts to strengthen gender equality mechanisms within its portfolio, the guidance document has been updated and will be soon available in August 2022 on its website.

48 <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/about/>
49 Adaptation Fund, 2013.

50 Adaptation Fund, 2021.
51 Adaptation Fund, 2017.

Define the intentional gender lenses (see Figure 5) to be applied in the entity's strategic approach to CDRFI investments and grant making activities. This will involve identifying the strategic focus areas for gender-smart CDRFI investment products and grants and deciding whether this approach will be applied across the entire portfolio and/or for a specific fund. These lenses include choosing whether your investments or grants will be focused on CDRFI-related businesses or solutions that are: led by women – which involves getting capital to women entrepreneurs; provide CDRFI products and services that are intentionally designed to close the financial protection gap and gender-specific climate and disaster related vulnerabilities; promote gender diversity in the workforce and workforce equity; and/or provide specific support and opportunities for women and women-led or owned businesses in the CDRFI value chain (e.g., women insurance sales agents and women insurance distributors).



Box 8

Questions to ask potential investees

- › Will the CDRFI-related investment go to a woman entrepreneur? i.e. Is the organization founded or led by a woman entrepreneur?
- › How does the organization's overall business model impact women and girls?
- › How does the organization's CDRFI products and services impact women and girls?
- › How does the organization address gender-specific climate and disaster related vulnerability in its CDRFI solutions?
- › What research has the organization done to identify gender-differential behaviour and needs among client groups?
- › What proportion of the organization's clients are women versus men?
- › How does the organization ensure any gender-specific constraints to access and usage of CDRFI are overcome in its business model?
- › How does the CDRFI solution intentionally seek to close any gender gap in financial protection?
- › Where are women involved in the company's operations?
- › How does the organization promote gender equity within its workforce?
- › Where are women involved in the company's supply chain or wider value chain?
- › Are women or women's groups involved in CDRFI sales and distribution?
- › Where do these opportunities tackle gender-specific impacts of climate change using CDRFI solutions?
- › Are there gender-specific talent opportunities in technical roles within the CDRFI value chain?

Source: Adapted from GenderSmart and Kite Insights, 2020.

Document your gender and CDRFI investment approach – in either a policy or strategy for the fund or organization. This strategy can take on different forms. It can either be a standalone policy or strategy or it can be mainstreamed within the broader organisational investment strategy. This investment strategy should document whether the approach taken will be applied to specific products or the entire portfolio. It can also incorporate the gender approaches to be taken in the other entry points – in the investment process, and in term of promoting gender diversity within the investment firm itself. The Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) has recently created a gender strategy. (Box 9)

Box 9

Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF)

About. The **Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF)** was established in October 2018 as a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) with over \$200 million in pledges from Germany and the United Kingdom, to help countries design and implement financial solutions to manage disasters and climate shocks. GRiF provides finance and technical expertise to develop new CDRFI instruments and help existing ones grow. These financial tools and systems help countries, and their people prepare for – and recover more quickly from – the impacts of climate shocks, disasters, and crises.

Gender Action Plan. In 2020, the GRiF developed a gender action plan.⁵² The **GRiF Gender Action Plan** sits within the wider framework of the World Bank Gender Strategy⁵³ – a high level institutional strategy. The first targeted interventions were to incorporate gender considerations into the grant making system; and build the secretariat capacity on gender and CDRFI solutions. This has resulted in a question on gender being made mandatory in the application process, so that people applying for GRiF grants are required to address gender in the context of the project.

Gender and CDRFI Training. The GRIF has piloted a 1.5-hour long scenario-based training specific to gender and CDRFI solutions which is framed within the broader bank context setting out the business case and situates the way that CDRFI solutions can deliver on the banks' agenda for gender. Three key questions are incorporated into the Gender Equality related evaluation criteria: How will gender equality be incorporated into the vehicle's design and operations?; What will be the gender impact of the vehicle?; and What gender-related indicators will be used to measure progress and outcomes?

Consider creating an investment product, fund or grant financing window to invest in entities seeking to meet the specific climate and disaster related risks and protection needs of women or girls. There are only a few examples of investors that apply a gender lens to their investments related to CDRFI solutions specifically or more broadly on gender-responsive climate finance.

- › The Asia-Pacific Climate Finance Fund (ACLIF) is supporting the design and pilot testing of a climate risk insurance product for microfinance borrowers in India, together with Indian Microfinance Institutions Network. The investment is applying a product and services gender-lens as it is expected to provide climate risk protection to over 850,000 low-income borrowers, at least 80% of whom are women. The index insurance product will be made available through five microfinance institutions.⁵⁴
- › **Root Capital** has a Women in Agriculture Initiative, which expands access to finance for women-led gender-inclusive agri-businesses through its lending. As part of this Root Capital offers climate resilience-focused Gender Equity Grants to build the capacity for small and growing businesses to improve the climate resilience of women farmers. In 2021, Root Capital also announced the launch of a new initiative supported by the Walmart Foundation, to further strengthen its gender-lens investing in the agricultural sector using innovative financing to provide credit to gender-inclusive and women-led businesses in Mexico and Central America.⁵⁵ (Box 15)
- › **Women's World Banking Asset Management (WAM)** Capital Partners Funds II incorporates a women-targeted and financial inclusion focus and has invested in a financial sector partner called Pula that offers climate-related insurance (Box 16). It applies the primary gender lens of investing in organizations that provide financial products and services to women.
- › **Global Affairs Canada (GAC)** has financed a **Gender-Responsive Climate Finance window** (Box 10) for the design and launch of innovative blended finance vehicles focused on the intersection of climate change and gender equality in emerging markets globally. In doing so, it applies a gender lens to the products and services being developed by the organizations it intends to invest in.
- › The **ADB** applies its **gender policy** in its financing of a project to develop climate-smart insurance for micro-small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Philippines to be administered

52 World Bank GRiF, 2021.

53 World Bank, 2015.

54 ACiFF, 2021.

55 <https://rootcapital.org/root-capital-announces-new-initiative-to-strengthen-gender-lens-investing-in-agriculture/>

through the ACLiFF. This project is part of the Vulnerable Twenty Group's (V20) Sustainable Insurance Facility (SIF).⁵⁶

- › The **Climate Investment Funds** (CIF) mainstreams gender considerations into its US\$1.2 billion Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) financing windows, which support developing countries and regions in building their adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change through concessional and grant funding.⁵⁷

Box 10

Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Window

Convergence in partnership with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) launched a **Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Window** in December 2021.⁵⁸ This design funding window will award early-stage grant funding for the design and launch of innovative blended finance vehicles focused on the intersection of climate change and gender equality in emerging markets globally. This window aims to build the field by supporting a pipeline of climate-gender blended finance vehicles to reach bankability. Blended finance vehicles supported by the window will be anchored by three key objectives: The mobilization of private sector capital at scale to finance gender-responsive climate change mitigation and/or adaptation in emerging markets; The integration of gender equality into the design, implementation, and operations of vehicles, rather than as a “bolt-on feature” or “nice-to-have”; and Strong alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) at the minimum. Applicants can apply for grants of Grants range between US\$ 40,000 to US\$ 190,000 for a feasibility study or grants of US\$ 190,000 to US\$ 500,000 for proof-of-concept funding.^{59 60}

⁵⁶ ADB, 2021.

⁵⁷ <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/topics/climate-resilience>

⁵⁸ https://www.convergence.finance/design-funding/open-window/gender-responsive-climate-finance-window?utm_source=social&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=genderwindow

⁵⁹ <https://www.convergence.finance/design-funding/open-window/gender-responsive-climate-finance-window>

⁶⁰ Convergence & Global Affairs Canada, 2021.

In terms of more generic examples: Kiva Asset Management mainstreams gender in the Kiva Refugee Investment Fund (KRIF), which includes targeting refugees displaced due to climate change. Gender is mainstreamed within this investment approach, rather than being explicitly applied, although the entities it invests in are those that primarily provide financial products and services to women customers. Moreover, its Invest in Women Fund (K-IWF) (Box 11) is an example of a women-targeted fund, although it does not have a specific focus on climate risk insurance investments. This fund focuses on investing in MFIs that provide financial products and services to primarily women customers.

Box 11

Kiva and Kiva Capital

About. Kiva has focused on a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive. This is through the provision of loans and in helping financial service provider (FSP) partners to build their operational capacity and develop innovative financial products that expand access and opportunity. The majority of Kiva's loans (81%) go to women. **Kiva Capital** is the asset management subsidiary of Kiva and it links return-seeking, impact-first capital with impact and growth opportunities from its global lending network of microfinance institutions, social enterprises, and small and growing businesses. In doing so, it seeks to catalyse financial access for underserved populations. Kiva has conducted lean data research with its partners which has considered the gendered nature of climate risks in term of financial resilience and need, to inform financial product design.

Strategy development. While Kiva has always primarily focused on women beneficiaries due to the gendered nature of the microfinance industry, Kiva Capital has only recently formalised its approach to gender-lens investing. To establish its gender lens investing strategy, Kiva conducted research on the topic through extensive external stakeholder consultation. The results are documented in the publication **Gender Lens Investing Landscape Gaps, Challenges, and Opportunities in Financial Inclusion for Women**.⁶¹

⁶¹ USAID, 2021.

A women focused investment fund. Informed by its research, in 2021 Kiva Capital adopted a strategic focus on scaling investment in gender-smart lending partners and directly in women entrepreneurs. With catalytic capital from USAID INVEST,⁶² it launched the Kiva Invest in Women Fund (K-IWF). The aim is to raise US\$100M in capital and reach 1 million women with high quality financial services through investments in approximately 15 entities. This fund seeks to advance women's economic empowerment and financial resilience and will invest in a globally diverse portfolio of gender-forward companies that pursue best practices in gender equality at their organizations and with their stakeholders. The three gender lenses being applied are women in leadership, companies with products and services with women, and those with strong policies and practices for women employees and customers. Within its new fund, Kiva aims to provide 5 investees per year with Gender based Technical Assistance, a third of its portfolio within the fund. All investees will receive light-touch gender-based TA.

Portfolio gender analysis. Kiva Capital undertook a total gender portfolio screen which involved assessing its existing investments and audited its gender practices and sex-disaggregated data. In turn, it addressed gaps through integrating gender considerations into its existing investment process and across its entire portfolio. E.g., in the [Kiva Refugee Investment Fund \(KRIF\)](#).

Mainstreaming gender in existing microlending funds targeting refugees. The KRIF partners with local financial institutions to catalyse and scale lending to refugees.⁶³ In terms of its impact strategies, the KRIF aims to provide capital to help refugees start small businesses or pay for other urgent expenses as they work to rebuild their lives. In addition to displaced populations, the fund serves impacted host communities in the Middle East as well catalyses economic development in rural areas prone to migration due to climate change induced droughts in Central America.⁶⁴ One of the ways they do this is consider whether financial service providers offer drought insurance as a product feature to support those potentially most impacted by climate induced disasters. To date KRIF has lent US\$18 million lent to more than 17,000 displaced borrowers.⁶⁵

62 <https://www.usaid.gov/invest>

63 <https://www.refugees.kiva.org/>

64 <https://refugeeinvestments.org/opportunities/kiva-refugee-investment-fund/>

65 <https://www.kiva.global/refugee-focus/>

Meantime, while not specific to climate finance, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has launched a Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for its' [grant-based Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund](#). (Box 12) [BlueOrchard](#)⁶⁶, an impact investment manager that manages the [InsuResilience Investment Fund \(IIF\)](#) has a women-focus in a specific fund – the Japan ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund 'JAWEF'. This fund is not specific to CDRFI solutions but applies the strategic gender lens of investing in women led businesses. It is a US\$ 241 million fund that invests with a focus on female micro entrepreneurs in the Southeast Asia frontier and emerging markets, and as a result 91% of its clients are female.⁶⁷ (Box 13)

Box 12

Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund

The [Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund](#) is implemented by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) under the project '[Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship](#)' (CWE) and funded by Global Affairs Canada. The fund will provide grant funding for one or more of the following themes: Establish a new or expand an existing innovative financing or impact investing initiative specifically targeting women-led enterprise; integrate gender-lens Investing into a new or existing innovative financing mechanism or impact investment fund; Conduct policy research or engagements on expanding access or usage of financial services to or investments in women-led enterprises.

Applicants are asked to take a gender-lens approach in any of the three chosen areas, meaning investing with the specific intent to create a positive impact on women. However, the focus goes beyond women as individuals but specifically focuses on supporting women enterprises. This can be in the form of investing in enterprises which are majority owned by women (51%), managed by a woman, majority of the board members are women, and/or supporting enterprises which support, empower, and develop the capacities of women. The CWE focus countries are Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Fiji, and Samoa.⁶⁸

66 <https://www.blueorchard.com/>

67 BlueOrchard, as of 30 June 2022 https://www.blueorchard.com/wp-content/uploads/190905_BlueOrchard-News-Release_JAWEF-Expansion-1.pdf and <https://www.blueorchard.com/products/japan-asean-women-empowerment-fund-jawef/>

68 <https://www.unescap.org/news/escap-cwe-call-expressions-interest>



Set portfolio gender and climate investment targets in any strategy and action plan to guide action. The existing challenge is where these currently exist, they are made separately on these issues rather than constituting targets that converge on both of these themes i.e., gender and CDRFI solutions. BII has climate finance investment targets and is in the process of setting a gender target based on the 2X Challenge for the entire portfolio. The IIF has a sex-disaggregated beneficiary target with the aim to reach 100m beneficiaries by the end of the life of the fund and at least half of the Debt Fund beneficiaries being women.

Ensure that financial and human resources are dedicated to implementing the strategy and action plan. For instance, the Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) (Box 9), Adaptation Fund (Box 14) and BII have dedicated resources to support the implementation of their gender-lens strategies and action plans. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reviewed its experience building gender into climate investment funds (CIF), which it administers within Asia and the Pacific. It has recommended hiring human resources with specific expertise in gender and climate change to achieve expected gender results.⁶⁹

69 ADB, 2016.

2.6 Have you engaged or partnered with other investors and grant makers interested in gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions?

Engage in peer learning with other investors that are seeking to apply a gender-smart approach to their investments and grant making. To support its gender-lens investing field building activity and peer learning, BII among others have engaged with the [Gender Smart Gender and Climate Investment Working Group](#). This group aims to unlock the potential of applying a gender lens to climate finance and vice versa and support growth of the field by raising awareness of an integrated gender and climate lens, building the case for mainstreaming gender-smart climate finance Investments.⁷⁰

Support incubators and accelerator programmes to support ideas and early stage CDRFI solutions that integrate gender considerations. There are no specific incubators or accelerators that focus on women targeted CDRFI solutions or applies a gender lens to funding early-stage businesses in this domain. Several organizations that support the incubation of risk financing products have the potential to add a gender lens to their work.

70 <https://www.gendersmartinvesting.com/>

For instance, the InsuResilience Solutions Fund (ISF) provides grant-based co-funding of up to 2.5m EUR and advice to partnerships between (local) public entities (e.g., national, or regional government bodies), private companies in the insurance sector and NGOs to transform new climate risk insurance concepts into products for testing in a market and bring successfully piloted climate risk insurance products to scale. There is an opportunity to fund market development of CRI products that specifically address women's climate and disaster risks and vulnerabilities. In another example, with ACLiFF support, ADB Ventures is providing seed grants to early-stage companies for the pilot-testing of new technology-enabled solutions and business models that promote climate change mitigation and resilience, and the deployment of financial risk management products.⁷¹

There is also the opportunity for existing entrepreneurial ecosystem and incubators focused on investing more broadly in climate change solutions to integrate a gender and CDRFI focus. A report by the UNFCCC has called for support to developing countries in developing sustainable and impactful climate technology incubators and accelerators, and that these need to account for the diverse needs of entrepreneurs and technology users in relation to differing cultural contexts including gender considerations.⁷²

Pay attention to and analyse power dynamics to advance gender equality through gender-lens investing in CDRFI. Criterion Institute discusses how to do this more generally in climate finance in its white paper called [Disrupting Fields: Addressing Power Dynamics in the Fields of Climate Finance and Gender-Lens Investing](#). This resource examines the work of the individuals and organizations that have respectively built climate finance and gender-lens investing and compares the development of these two fields.⁷³



Tips

- ☑ Employ people dedicated to gender-lens investing.
- ☑ Identify and work with leadership and board-level champions to echo the message about the value of considering gender in CDRFI investments.
- ☑ Recognize that building internal commitment to gender-lens investing takes an investment in time and patience.
- ☑ Provide data and evidence to overcome bias and build the business case for gender-lens investing.
- ☑ Focus the conversation on the business opportunity of integrating gender-considerations into CDRFI investments and grant making rather than framing the discussion from only a right-based approach.
- ☑ Consider the opportunities and not just the risks of integrating gender-considerations into investments in CDRFI solutions.

71 ACLiFF, 2021.

72 UNFCCC, TEC & CTCN, 2018.

73 Criterion Institute, 2021.



3 Gender-Lens Investing and Grant Making Process

This section focuses on integrating gender considerations at all stages of the investment and grant making process in CDRFI solutions.

3.1 Have gender considerations been integrated into the deal origination and sourcing process?

Ensure gender considerations are integrated into the deal/ grant origination and sourcing and where relevant the application criteria. This can be done through partnerships with women's business associations and intermediaries focused on gender-lens investing in climate finance.

3.2 Have gender considerations been integrated into the due diligence process?

Gather and analyse sex-disaggregated and gender baseline data as part of the due diligence process. This should include baseline data on the existing gender breakdown of beneficiaries (by males/females) of potential investees, and the gender breakdown of their employee base to establish the participation of women in their workforce. For data point ideas refer to the [InsuResilience Step by Step Guidance A Gender-Smart Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance \(CDRFI\) programmes](#).⁷⁴

⁷⁴ InsuResilience, 2021.

In one example, Kiva Capital does a pre-investment screen and gives a gender rating to the potential investee based on a set of gender data related parameters. These include the extent of their reach to women beneficiaries (borrowers served), the percentage of women loan officers and the percentage of women on the investees' board.

3.3 Has the investment committee applied gender criteria within its selection process in line with any gender policy and strategy?

Align investment decision making with any organisational gender-related policies or investment approach. For instance, BII integrate the **2X criteria** as the entry point for benchmarking its deals. The criteria applied by the investment committee and in its deal or grant structuring. AF's approach for ensuring its investments is in line with its gender policy (Box 14). See box 16 for more details on WWB approach.

3.4 Have you built gender-related conditions into investment and grant agreements?

Apply conditions into grant or deal agreements to require investees to collect and report sex-disaggregated and gender data. For example, BII builds conditions within its contracts for sex-disaggregated data reporting from investees in line with the 2X Challenge Criteria indicators for gender-lens investing. In another example, Kiva Capital's new women's fund (Box 11) requires potential investees to make a commitment to improving their gender performance and receive some technical assistance to

do so. The AF set the minimum targets/ requirements for investees on gender, in recognition that many of the entities have a different level of capacity.

In terms of resources on this theme, Hogan Lovells and 2X Challenge are developing concrete guidance on how to structure a gender lens into the legal documentation of a transaction through the Aurora: The Gender-Lens Project. Meanwhile [Calvert Impact Capital](#) has published a resource on [Gender-Lens Investing: Legal Perspectives – How Investors Incorporate Gender Considerations into Deal Documentation](#).

Box 13

The InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF)

About. The [InsuResilience Investment Fund \(IIF\)](#), formerly known as Climate Insurance Fund, is an initiative created by [KfW](#), the German Development Bank, on behalf of the [German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#). The overall objective of the InsuResilience Investment Fund is to contribute to the adaptation to climate change by improving access to and the use of insurance in developing countries. The specific objective of the fund is to reduce the vulnerability of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as well as low-income households to extreme weather events. The IIF is managed by BlueOrchard and has been set up as a public-private-partnership and combines Private Debt and Private Equity investments in two separately investible Sub-Funds. Technical assistance (TA) and premium support facilities are separately funded by BMZ. The IIF TA facility can fund capacity building tailored to the institutions, such as market and product development and marketing and insurance awareness activities. To date this TA has not generally incorporated a gender lens or been focused on marketing and product development to better serve the women's market. The IIF premium support facility is grant money used for temporary subsidies on the premium that clients pay to address information asymmetry and support clients to appreciate the value of a product through experiencing it.

Sex-disaggregated beneficiary target. The aim is to reach 100m beneficiaries by the end of the life of the fund with at least half of the Debt Fund beneficiaries being women.

2X Challenge compliant debt fund. The debt sub fund is 2X Challenge compliant and the FSP investees have to record sex-disaggregated data on their beneficiaries into their databases. The private equity sub fund does not meet the 2X criteria as it targets insurance companies, brokers and tech companies and they do not systematically collect data on the gender of beneficiaries due to data collection challenges.

Mainstreaming gender into investment processes. Gender considerations are factored into the investment process at different stages including in the investment guidance for the sourcing and during the due diligence to be used by the investment committee. The ESG questionnaire applied to the potential investees incorporates gender-related questions including in terms of product development, for instance whether investees offer non-financial services such as women empowerment or financial literacy education that complements the product offering. Data is collected at the human resources policy of the investee institution in terms of its anti-discrimination and harassment policies, as well as data on the number of women on the board and in management. An ESG scorecard is used to assess investees' potential impact. This incorporates questions that require sex-disaggregated data on the number of jobs created or people trained, and a higher weighting is given in the score card based on the number of women beneficiaries. The scorecard result is presented to the investment committee to support their decision making. Post investment sex-disaggregated data is collected on the number of beneficiaries to track the gender-distribution of clients for a specific investee and in turn this is reported by the fund manager to the capital providers.

IIF investment in the [Kashf Foundation, Pakistan.](#) Kashf is registered as a Non-Banking Micro Finance Company which is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Kashf used IIF's debt investment to expand its livestock loan product, which targets women and includes insurance in case cattle fall ill or die. Kashf Foundation has reached more than 39,000 women farmers with climate insurance-linked livestock loan in Pakistan as of June 2022.

Box 14

Adaptation Fund (AF) M&E

The AF financing is used to support adaptation needs. In line with its gender policy (see Box 7), it requires applicants to conduct a gender assessment and undertake a mandatory gender-responsive stakeholder consultation exercise, plus commit to capturing gender lessons learned in its M&E and reporting on gender indicators in its M&E framework. If gender is not sufficiently addressed in the funding proposal, the proposal will not be approved.

In a publication [Assessing Progress: Integrating Gender in Adaptation Fund Projects and Programmes](#), the AF has developed case studies on gender mainstreaming and lessons learned from its investments to understand practice gaps and identify and disseminate best practices. On an annual basis the AF secretariat reports to its board on its project portfolio performance, which is also reported to the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) which are the supreme body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since 2016 this reporting has included sex-disaggregated data including on beneficiaries, and other gender mainstreaming data points. The AF has approximately 110 projects across 106 countries, each with a different and a long average timeline of between 4-6 years. The challenge has been related to identifying a gender performance baseline for all projects as some began before the latest gender policy.

To support its reporting, the AF provides the projects/programmes it finances with a project performance report template, which includes prompts to ensure gender information is provided in reporting. Aligned with its updated gender policy, the AF is developing a gender scorecard to track progress more systemically on gender performance in its projects at its portfolio level at the project entry, implementation and exit stages, as well as continuously promoting capacity building to partners through gender trainings and publications, with the goal to strengthen gender knowledge and expertise that lead to better gender outcomes.



3.5 Have you provided gender and CDRFI capacity building to your staff and investees?

Provide in house capacity building on the business case for integrating gender considerations into investing and grant making in CDRFI solutions. This is to increase awareness of both the why it is relevant, as well as how to do it. The training can target investment officers and technical staff working with investees and grantees, as well as potential investees. For example, the GRiF has piloted an internal training specific to gender and CDRFI (Box 9). Similarly, BII offers a virtual 2-hour training to its investment officers on the nexus of climate and gender. The training includes case studies and discussions and interactive and polls drawing on examples from the BII (formerly CDC) [Gender Toolkit](#) including the example of the IIF. Additionally, BII offer an in-house gender training. In partnership with the IFC, BII has created a [Fund Manager's Guide to Gender-Smart Investment](#).⁷⁵ In another example, the AF conducts a training on gender compliance through the project lifecycle for its investees (known as implementing agencies).

75 CDC & IFC, 2020.

3.6 Do you offer technical support on gender to grantees and investees to develop and implement a gender action plan and gather gender impact data?

Conduct a detailed gender assessment on grantees/ investees and work with them to address gaps. Kiva Capital offers light touch TA to all its investees within its Women's Fund, and in-depth TA will be offered to select number of investees (Box 11). Meanwhile, Root Capital provide capacity building to small and growing agricultural businesses with a focus on both gender and climate resilience (Box 15).

Box 15

Root Capital

Through its Gender Equity Grants (GEG) programme Root Capital offers select clients with gender related grants. The grants are used for agri-SGBs improve gender inclusion within their operations and communities – specifically, by supplementing the initial costs and risks for a business to implement gender-inclusive policies and programmes. Root Capital's team works closely with the organization to diagnose issues at the organization related to gender inclusion and develop concrete project proposals to address these issues. In turn, they provide clients with one-time grant funding of up to US \$20,000 to help the business put its plan into action over one year. As part of this work, Root Capital has developed a [Climate Resilience and Gender Diagnostic for Agricultural Small and Growing Businesses \(SGBs\)](#). This diagnostic comprises interview schedules to explore challenges within agricultural SGBs related to gender and climate resilience, to be used by gender-focused impact investors to formulate financing and technical assistance projects.⁷⁶ It also, factors in gender-specific climate risks in its evaluation of its clients' climate vulnerability and ensures women are included in critical adaptation activities.⁷⁷

An evaluation of the GEG programme is available, which found that there is value in providing financial incentives such as better loan terms to agri-SGBs that meet certain improvement benchmarks supported by gender inclusion technical assistance.⁷⁸ Additionally, a [case study](#) of Root Capital's experience of gender-lens investing is available.⁷⁹



Encourage investees to conduct a gender self-assessment to inform any gender action plan. A variety of resources exist that can support investees self-assess their own gender impacts and performance across different parts of their business model and wider value chain. These include the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), UN Women, IDB's Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPIs) [Gender Gap Analysis Tool](#) which supports the identification of strengths as well as areas where further action can be taken.⁸⁰

Provide technical support to grantees and investees to develop their own gender action plans. For example, Women's World Banking Asset Management as part of its contracting process requires its investees to commit to develop a gender action plan (Box 18). Other investors, such as BII (Box 17) and KFW DEG (Box 18) also provide investees with technical assistance to undertake gender assessments and develop gender action plans either independently or with the support of consultants.

⁷⁶ Root Capital, 2021.

⁷⁷ Root Capital, 2021b.

⁷⁸ Root Capital & Value for Women, 2021.

⁷⁹ Root Capital, 2021c.

⁸⁰ <https://weps-gapanalysis.org/>

Box 16

Women's World Banking Asset Management

Women's World Banking Asset Management (WAM) invests in innovative inclusive finance companies in emerging markets, guiding them to capture the substantial market share of financially under-served women and the substantial talent pool of women staff and leaders. WAM makes direct equity investments in inclusive financial institutions with an explicit focus on women through Women's World Banking Capital Partners Funds I and II. Fund II includes investments in the insurance sector.

A Gender Action Plan requirement. WAM requires its investees to commit to develop a gender action plan. Each Portfolio Company undergoes an in-depth, data-driven Gender Assessment resulting in customized, strategic Gender Action Plans after the investment has been made. Baseline data is collected during the due diligence process, and then the gender assessment is conducted during the first year of the investment. The development of this gender action plan is supported by Women's World Banking technical assistance and investees develop a board approved 3-to-5-year gender action plan which is required to include a series of measurable KPIs on gender-related performance.⁸¹

An investment in Pula. The fund has invested in Pula an agricultural insurance and technology company in sub-Saharan Africa that designs and delivers innovative agricultural insurance and digital products to help small-holder farmers [often women] endure yield risks, improve their farming practices, and bolster their incomes over time. Pula offers both crop and livestock insurance, which offers protection against drought and flood, as well as pest and disease. Among others, Pula has partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Kenya to provide farmers with risk protection.

81 <https://www.womenworldbanking.org/asset-management/>

Box 17

British International Investment (BII) Technical Assistance

BII develops a tailor-made plan to support each of its investees to become 2X Challenge qualified, which they are required to commit to as part of their memorandum of understanding (MOU). As part of its technical assistance to investees, BII (formerly CDC Group) supports some of its investee's participation in the Financial Alliance for Women (FAW), a network of financial organizations dedicated to championing the female economy. In turn, the FAW provides BII investees with peer learning and technical support on how to better serve the women's financial market and design and refine women-centered products, services, and strategies.⁸²

Box 18

KFW DEG Gender Smart Opportunities Assessment through technical assistance

About. KFW DEG offers financing, advice and support to private sector enterprises operating in developing and emerging-market countries. DEG defines gender-lens investing as private sector investments that provide women in developing country markets with improved access to entrepreneurship, leadership opportunities, decent and skilled employment, finance as well as products and services that enhance their economic participation. DEG publicly sets out its approach to gender-lens investing in a paper.⁸³

Technical Assistance. DEG has developed a Gender Smart Opportunities Assessment, to support its investees in the financial sector to develop women-targeted products and services. The assessment is undertaken with support from consultants help investees to establish the business case for an expanded focus on women for a financial institution. DEG has developed a set of case studies on customers who have participated in the [Gender Smart Opportunities Assessment](#).⁸⁴

82 <https://financialallianceforwomen.org/>

83 DEG, 2020a.

84 DEG, 2020b.

3.7 Have you gathered sex-disaggregated and gender performance data from investees?

Apply a gender perspective to monitoring and evaluation on the performance of CDRFI-related investees and grantees.

Sex-disaggregated data can be required from investees for reporting purposes on key indicators, such as the number of beneficiaries. BlueOrchard has implemented an ESG and impact management system called B.Impact, which has been implemented across all of the funds managed by or advised by BlueOrchard, including the InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF). It also sex-disaggregates beneficiary data (Box 13). Notwithstanding it can be a challenge to get this data from insurance companies as insurance is rarely provided by a standalone company and embedded into another product distributed by a third party.

Specific to CDRFI solutions, there is the [InsuResilience Step by Step Guidance: A Gender-smart approach to Monitoring and Evaluation \(M&E\) of Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance \(CDRFI\) Programmes](#).⁸⁵ This resource explores how to ensure gender-sensitivity and -responsiveness within the M&E processes of CDRFI solutions. It provides practical step-by-step guidance on planning for M&E throughout each stage of the programme cycle. This includes at the design, implementation, and impact stages of such a programme. Additionally, it also provides advice on the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data.

More broadly, the internationally adopted 2X criteria sets out indicators and generic guidance on gender-related investment definitions and indicators for tracking the performance of investees, which can be tailored to the needs of investors in CDRFI solutions.⁸⁶ Resources exist that deal more broadly with measuring the impact at the nexus of gender and the environment, which may be drawn upon to support the design indicators to track performance of investees and grantees. For example, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has a publication called [Gender and environment statistics: unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs](#).⁸⁷

Use the 2X Challenge indicators and guidance to track performance of investees and portfolios related to each of the 2X Criteria.⁸⁸ 2X Challenge has a resource on its indicators and how to apply them called [How to Measure the Gender Impact of Investments: Using the 2X Challenge Indicators in Alignment with IRIS+](#).

Tips

- ☑ Collect baseline gender data.
- ☑ Include contract conditions requiring investees to collect sex-disaggregated and gender-data.
- ☑ Collect sex-disaggregated data from investees on the number of people insured, pay-out and claims ratios, and customer retention rates.
- ☑ Offer capacity building to investment teams on how to integrate gender and climate considerations into their investments.
- ☑ Use TA grants to encourage the development of gender-smart CDRFI strategies. E.g., to support a CRI market assessment of diverse clients' needs including women; or women-targeted product development.

⁸⁵ InsuResilience, 2021.

⁸⁶ 2X Challenge, 2021.

⁸⁷ UNEP, 2019.

⁸⁸ CDC, 2X Challenge, GIIN & IRIS, 2020.

4 Internal gender diversity

This section focuses on addressing gender diversity within the investment firm or grant making organization investing in CDRFI solutions.

4.1 Do you have gender-inclusive organisational workforce policies and practices?

Conduct a self-assessment on the organization's existing gender workforce policies and practices. While not specific to CDRFI solutions, Value for Women has a [Gender Smart Nexus Tool](#) which allows investees to conduct a Gender Enterprise Self-Assessment Survey which tells them what their business is doing well, and how it can become more gender-inclusive in practice, as well as establish a baseline and track progress. Another tool is the Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA's) [GEM framework](#) which is a practical manual and toolkit for assessing gender equality, and identifying, implementing, and measuring gender equality mainstreaming strategies within companies.⁸⁹ The UN's [Women's Empowerment Principles Gender Gap Analysis Tool \(WEPs Tool\)](#) is a further tool that can be applied by both investors and investee companies of all size to conduct a self-assessment and identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve their organisational performance on gender equality. These tools all consider policies such as flexible working, parental leave, and the gender wage gap that while not specific to CDRFI solutions, are relevant policies and practices related to the significant gender impacts of all organizations.

4.2 Have you considered the gender balance of your investment committee, investment team and overall workforce?

Require gender diversity within the investment and grant making committees, investment teams and as well as strengthen the gender diversity within the organization.

This is in context where there is a documented low level of women's participation in investment roles in general. A good practice example is Women's World Banking Asset Management's Fund II investment committee, which is made up of its Principal Investment Officers, 3 of 5 of whom are women, and the female CEO, plus three independent representatives – one of whom is a woman. They also seek to achieve a gender balance in their senior investment team.

⁸⁹ MEDA & USAID, 2018.

Strengthen your internal workforce policies to improve gender diversity in the workforce and create a gender-inclusive workplace and workforce. The [BII and IFC Fund Manager's Guide to Gender-Smart Investment](#) provides guidance to support fund managers drive the adoption of gender-smart solutions across their own firm, including improving gender diversity in investment teams. It sets out emerging good practice across five commitment themes namely; Establish Tone at Top with Targets; Attract and Promote Female Talent; Build Respectful Workplace Cultures Free from Bullying and Sexual Harassment; Measure and Report on Progress; and Commit Publicly to Gender Diversity.⁹⁰

Tips

- ✓ Hire female investment officers to support investments and grant making in CDRFI solutions.
- ✓ Connect women investment officers to other women working in climate finance and CDRFI solutions.
- ✓ Conduct a gender self-assessment and develop a gender action for the investment firm to improve its internal gender-related organisational policies and practices.

⁹⁰ CDC & IFC, 2020.



5 Conclusion

Gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions is in the nascent stage with significant scope to scale up existing approaches. In particular, the opportunity exists to leverage the growing experience and engagement of investors applying gender criteria in climate investments. This can provide lessons for gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions using diverse financial instruments and types of capital.

This guidance has highlighted how there are opportunities through multiple entry points in the three broad areas of: applying intentional investment strategies focused on gender and CDRFI; by mainstreaming gender considerations the supporting investment process; and through inwardly looking at gender diversity within the investment firms that are directing these investments. (Figure 9).

Figure 9: A summary of entry points for gender-lens investing in CDRFI solutions

Policy, Strategy & Action Plan	Investment & Grant Making Process	Internal Gender Diversity
Investment and grant making strategies which incorporate an intentional gender focus in the allocation of capital to CDRFI	Integration of gender considerations at all stages of the CDRFI investment and grant process	Addressing gender diversity within the CDRFI investment firm or grant making organization
<p>Gender Policy and Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Business case development ✓ Materiality assessment ✓ Portfolio gender analysis ✓ Policy & Strategy: Selection of gender lens ✓ Public commitment <p>Gender Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Target setting ✓ Resource allocation 	<p>Investment and Grant Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deal or grantee origination and sourcing ✓ Due diligence process ✓ Investment/grant committee decisions ✓ Contracting <p>Post Investment & Grant Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) ✓ Technical Assistance & Capacity Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investee self-assessments • Investee gender action plan 	<p>Gender Performance Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Investment committee ✓ Investment team ✓ Overall workforce <p>Organisational gender policies & practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender self-assessment

Going forward, there is the opportunity through the IGP Centre of Excellence on Gender-smart Solutions Technical Advisory Facility to provide Members with support in applying a gender-lens to their investments and grant making in CDRFI solutions. In doing, so international good practice can be disseminated through the Partnership.

The integration of gender considerations can be enhanced in the two financial instruments associated with IGP, the IIF managed by Blue Orchard and its accompanying technical assistance and premium support facilities, and the ISF. Given the need for the incubation of investable gender-smart opportunities in CDRFI solutions, there is the scope for the ISF to apply a gender focus in a future call for applications and also explore making commitments towards the 2X Challenge. Moreover, while the IIF has made commitments toward the 2X Challenge there is significant scope to use its technical assistance to help institutions understand the gender dimensions of climate risk insurance.

In terms of the broader ecosystem, the IGP and its Members can collaborate with and, where appropriate, join the 2X Collaborative – a development financed backed industry body to convene gender-lens investors globally and help them with their gender-focused investments.

To conclude, there is more room for adopting good practice and building on existing gender-smart approaches to investing and grant making in CDRFI solutions. Doing so will support the financial protection and climate resilience-building of the women and men most vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

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kipconcept gmbh, Bonn

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