



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
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ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

Just Finance: EnGENDERing Sustainable Climate Resilience

28th of May 2024 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | AUA, Room 11

Organized by: SAEDI Consulting (Barbados) Inc., UN Women, World Food Programme, ECADE, Ministry of Social and Community Development, Housing, and Gender Affairs, Grenada

Background on the event

The event seeks to ensure that the conversation around the need for social adaptation including the behaviour change, anticipatory actions and agency on the behalf of vulnerable groups is not lost in the broader discussions that tend to happen around climate finance. Although, some efforts touch on social adaptation and the financing necessary for it, usually it is only a few that do so. We aim to bring this issue to the forefront as a driver of adaptation financing. Typically, when we justify the need for adaptation, we speak about the people but when designing proposals, a people-centric approach is often not taken. By exploring partners' perspective and work in the nexus of climate finance and social adaptation, we will then be able to have a deeper discussion on what is and should be the role of climate finance in the region in the context of social adaptation, how do we make sure we are both gender responsive and socially inclusive, and how do we make sure we address gender from a binary perspective but also an intersectional perspective.

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- Climate financing is often inequitable and inaccessible to the groups who need it most, especially since vulnerability is not exclusive or equal, and is constantly changing.
- There is push back on human rights that is hindering our understanding of how women, men, boys, girls, and other diverse groups experience climate change impacts differently. More research and data are needed to understand these differences to ensure that programmes and solutions are effective.
- There are disasters that do not need to happen just because a natural hazard has occurred.
- Despite having the knowledge, abilities, and resources to prepare for natural and climate hazards, people are often still not prepared. Preparations for climate hazards are often seen as a waste of time if a disaster did not occur.
- Solutions, programs, and resilience all require a change in attitudes, practices, and behaviours. This change cannot happen by talking about it alone; it requires investments and multidisciplinary data analysis.
- Psychology, human analysis, trauma-support, and using a gender-lens are key to understanding the intersectionality behind disaster preparedness, recovery, climate financing, and climate resilience at all levels and sectors.

Key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points)

- Vulnerable and marginalized groups require increased engagement in climate finance policy development. Mechanisms must be in place to facilitate their engagement in an active way that is not tokenistic.
- Rapid and flexible financing instruments are required, and they must be cognizant of the financial barriers that vulnerable groups face.
- Clear accountability mechanisms are essential, including gender markers for climate finance tracking.
- With specific reference to the Loss and Damage Fund and the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) as instruments and mechanisms that can unlock additional financing for SIDS, we highlight the need for Gender representative membership in advisory bodies, Gender responsive guidelines for assessing projects and priorities; - Checklists to support gender mainstreaming efforts, and Gender transformative accountability and reporting mechanisms that are fully transparent.
- The inclusion of on-the-ground Civil Society actors is critical for equitable allocation of climate financing and equitable implementation of programmes. Subsequently, governments and CSOs can leverage private sector entities, consultants as well as social and environmental enterprises to further bridge the gap between sectors.