



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



VIRTUAL TRAINING COURSE
Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion and
Climate Change

THIS INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY:

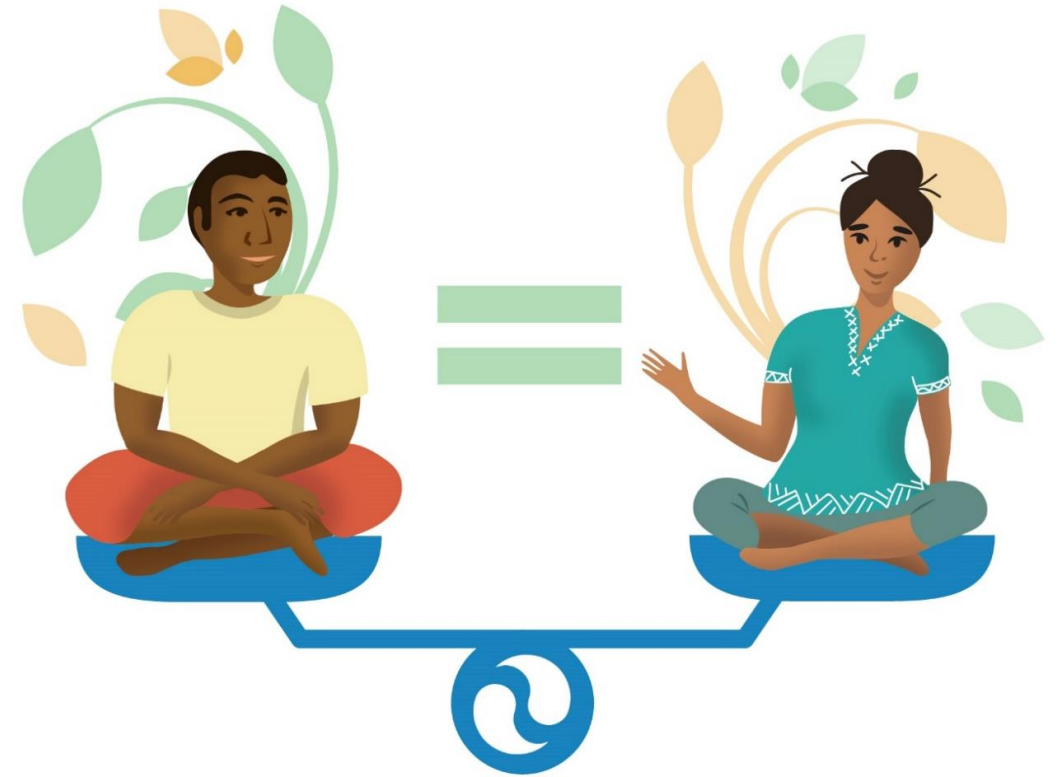


NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE Aid Programme



Overall training objectives

1. Build on existing knowledge, capacity and practical skills for understanding the linkages between gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) in climate change.
2. Identify cross sectoral links between GEDSI, climate change and climate sensitive development sectors.





OUTLINE

1. Key concepts of GEDSI
 2. Why GEDSI matters?
 3. GEDSI considerations for Climate Change
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Key concepts of GEDSI

1.1

Key concepts: Understanding Gender

Sex: biological characteristics of being male and female (e.g. reproductive organs, hormones, chromosomes).

Gender: characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. Society associates certain roles, responsibilities, entitlements and behaviours with those identities, and also has expectations for them.

1.2

Key concepts: What are aspects of understanding Gender?

Differences between genders exist at multiple levels, including:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Access to and management of strategic resources
- Participation and decision making

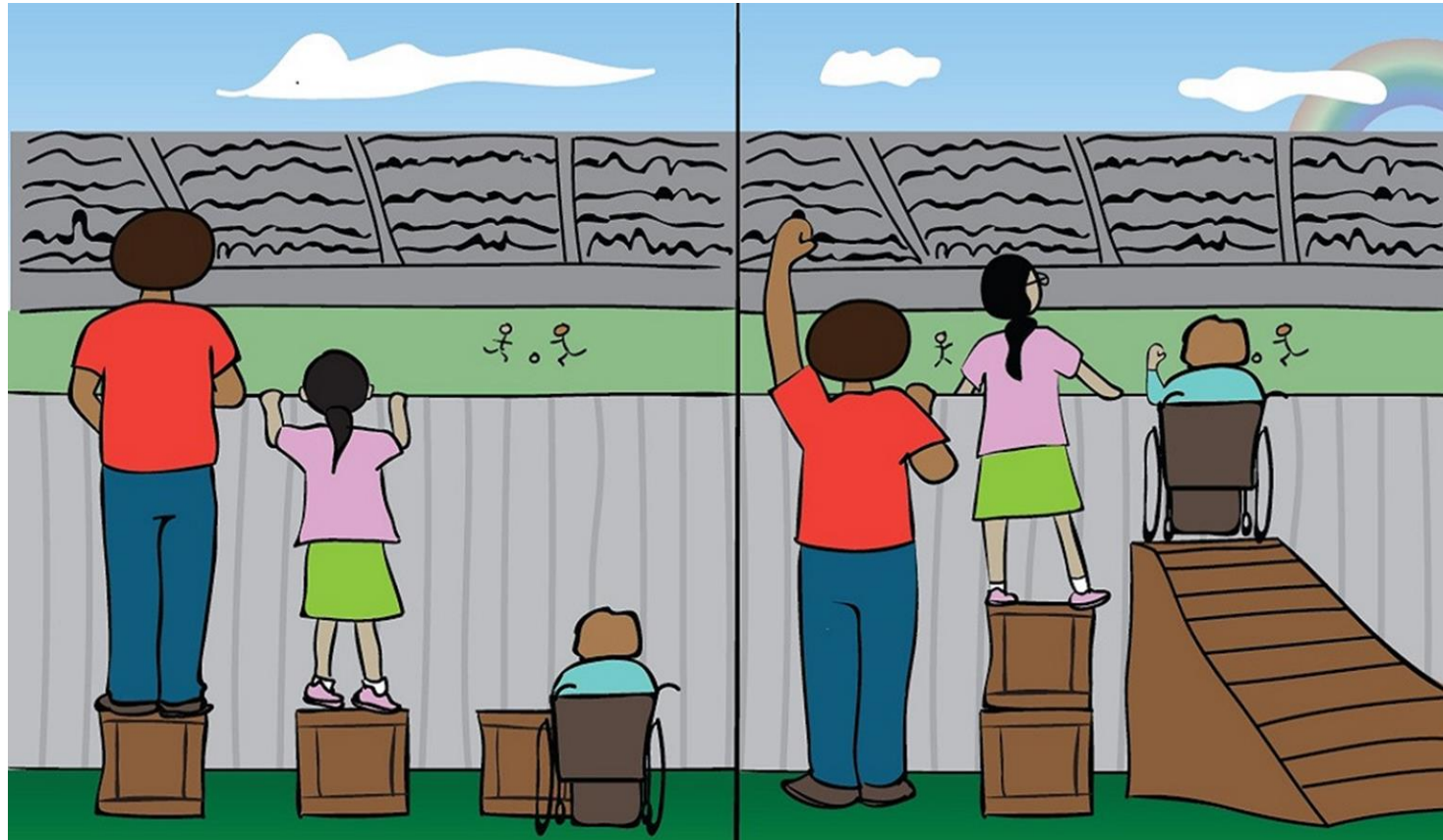


Source: Fishers during COVID. Photo: Tom Vierus

1.3

Key concepts: Equality vs. Equity

What is the difference?



1.4

Key concepts: Equality vs. Equity What is the difference?



1.5

GEDSI Learning Video



1.6

Key concepts: Disability rights



1.7 million people in PICs, or nearly 15% of the total population of the region, are living with a disability

A figure which is likely to significantly increase

1.7 Key concepts: Social inclusion

Social inclusion is best understood through exclusion - when people are excluded or left out.

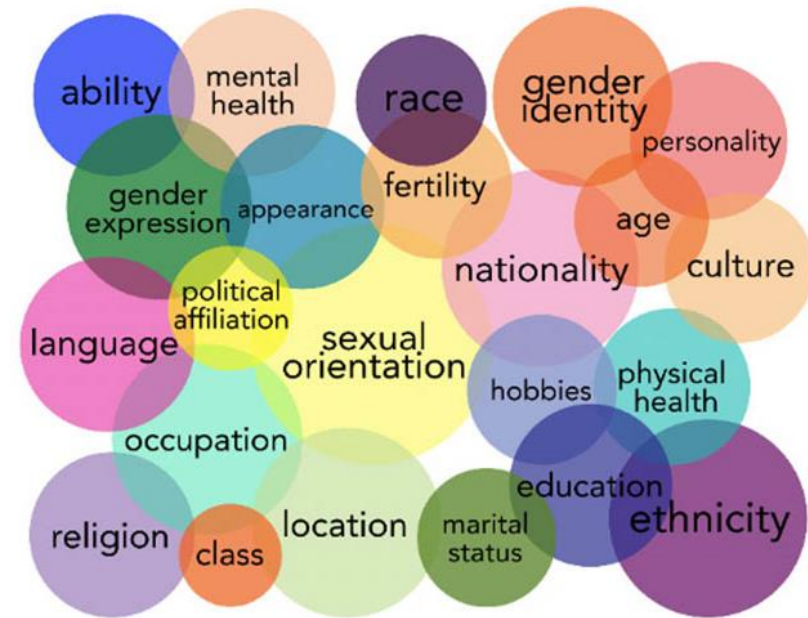
People who are socially excluded ...

- lack or are denied resources, rights, goods and services
- not able to participate in the normal relationships and activities available to most people in a society (e.g. economic, social, cultural, political)
- Social exclusion affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole
- Social inclusion is levelling the playing field for intended beneficiaries (most vulnerable groups) to fully participate in planned programmes / projects.

1.8 Key concepts: Intersectionality

Intersectionality is the idea that each individual's identity has many layers and each layer may confer either negative or positive status and may either block or open access to resources and power in a particular society.

It is important that we recognize these overlapping or intersecting identities and that everyone has their own unique experiences of marginalization and oppression in order to be truly inclusive.



1.9 Bringing G E D S I all together ...

Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) is a concept that addresses unequal power relations experienced by people on the grounds of gender, wealth, ability, location, ethnicity, language and agency, or a combination of these dimensions.

It focuses on the need for action to rebalance these power relations, reduce disparities and ensure equal rights, opportunities and respect for all individuals, regardless of their social identity.





Why are GEDSI considerations
important?

2.1

Why GEDSI is important in climate change adaptation?



“Environmental and social issues cannot be separated - a thriving planet cannot be one that contains widespread human suffering or restricts human potential, and humanity cannot exist on a dying planet”.

GEDSI focuses on efforts to ensure that people disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or other status are included in NbS programs and benefits, and can achieve their full potential in life.

GEDSI is key to achieving sustainable development goals and economic development

2.2

Why GEDSI considerations are important?

GEDSI terminology and language can vary across projects, policies and planning. And this be confusing.

Project staff must be able to explain GEDSI terms and concepts, some of which are culturally sensitive, to build local support for the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups of people.

Projects that address gender concerns and provide equality opportunities for women and men, enjoy more success than those that do not.

Projects are generally expected to respect and uphold human rights principles as enshrined in national constitutions and other law/policies, and sustainable development goals.

Human rights include gender equality and social inclusion.

2.3

Examples of key international laws and conventions important to gender equality and social inclusion

1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - It defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/UNCRC) - Outlines rights to be enjoyed without discrimination, including on the grounds of gender.

2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) - A comprehensive human rights convention that also includes explicit mention of gender

2030 Sustainable Development Goal



2.4

Examples of key Regional commitments important to gender equality and social inclusion

Pacific leaders gender equality declaration (2012)

Framework for resilient development in the pacific (2016)

Pacific framework for the rights of persons with disability (2016)

Pacific platform for action on gender equality and women's human rights 2018–2030 (2017)

National policies/plans – including gender policies, water and sanitation policies, climate change policies, DRR policies



2.5

Gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)





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GEDSI and Climate Change

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3.1 GEDSI and Climate Change

People's gender, ability, identity, age, etc are a critical determinants of climate change vulnerability and their capacity to adapt to development responses.

Differences between men and women in terms of their power, rights, relations and roles mean that their vulnerability (and adaptive capacity) to climate change is not the same; men and women are differently affected by climate change.

3.2

Why is GEDSI mainstreaming important in the climate change sector?

1. GEDSI are fundamental human rights that must be at the centre of all development efforts.
2. Climate change affects women and men differently.
3. Projects that recognize and address the different needs, priorities, and barriers faced by women and men and provide equal opportunities for them are likely to succeed than those that do not.
4. Fully integrating or mainstreaming GEDSI considerations throughout a climate change policy or project cycle enhances the effectiveness of planned climate change interventions, and helps to achieve the best possible development outcomes for all project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

1.1.2

Gender dimensions of climate change

GEDSI ensures that development processes are equitable and benefits reach all, by including processes which are informed by diverse voices.

It is important that development projects embed an approach that will empower women and other marginalised groups, and build in actions that will contribute to the reduction of inequality.

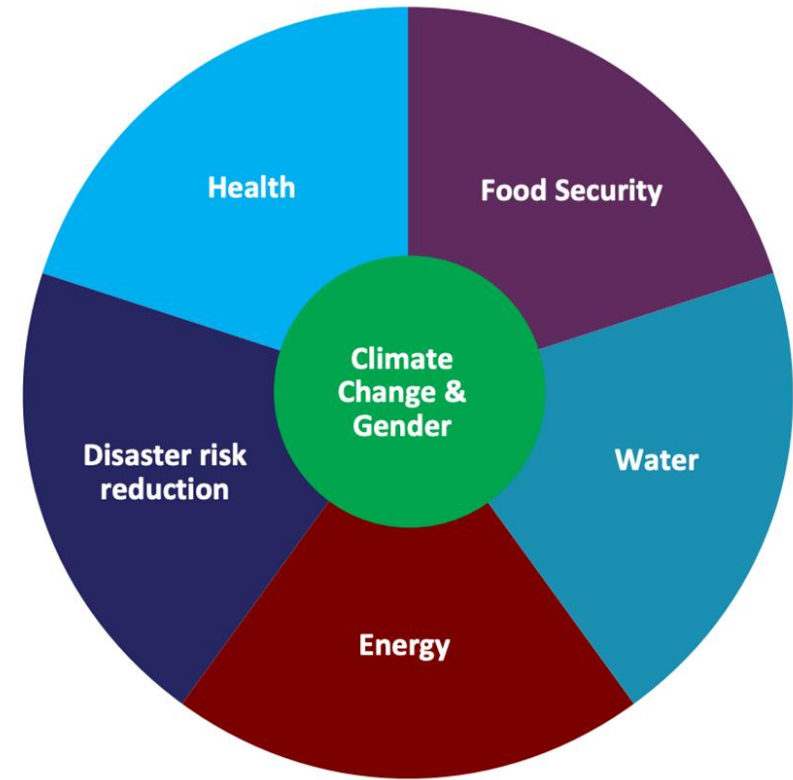


Figure. Climate change and gender: cross-sectoral links
Source: Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit

3.4

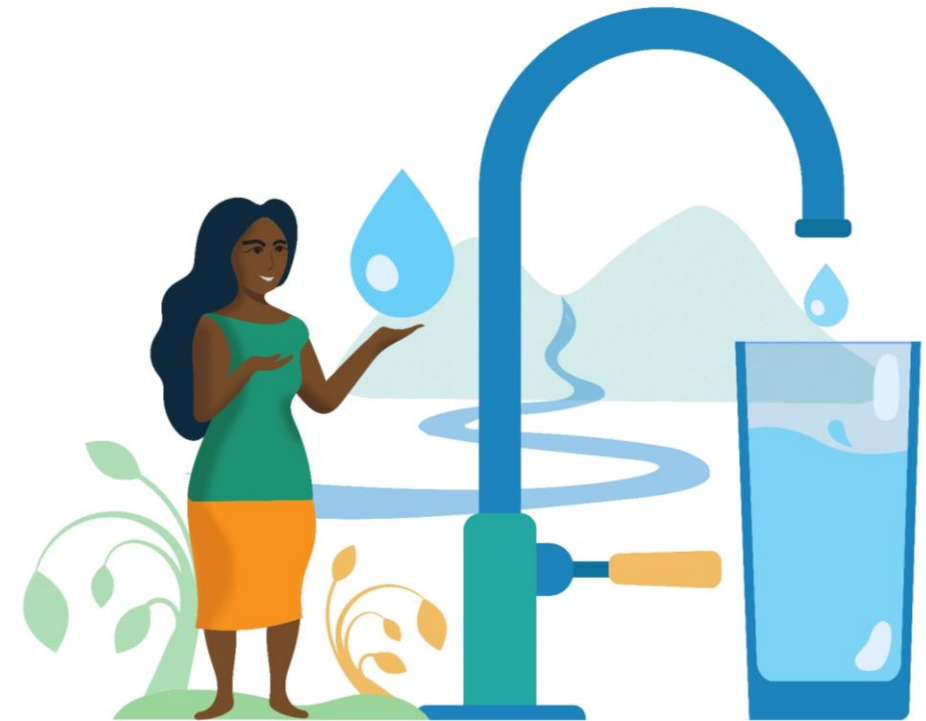
GEDSI considerations in the Water sector

Access to safe water is a fundamental human need and therefore, a basic human right.

Universal access to clean water and adequate sanitation are preconditions for healthy and prosperous societies.

Without water, people are exposed to health risks, are less prepared to manage the impacts of climate change, and inequalities are made worse.

For women and girls, inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services can impact their sexual and reproductive health, and people with disability face enormous difficulties to practice basic hygiene without appropriate WASH facilities



3.5 GEDSI considerations in the Water sector

Exclusion, low literacy, and limited representation across WASH governance, management and decision-making means that people do not get their needs heard, nor are their needs addressed sufficiently, and this is especially so for women, girls and those living with disabilities.



Key Points

1. GEDSI is a concept that addresses unequal power relations
2. GEDSI focuses on transforming institutional and structural barriers to rebalance these power relations and ensure equal rights
3. It is critical to look at social inequalities and exclusion in the broader society to fully understand the concept of GEDSI

GEDSI Learning Video





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THANKS

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