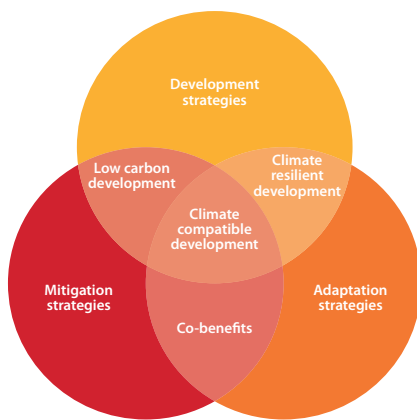




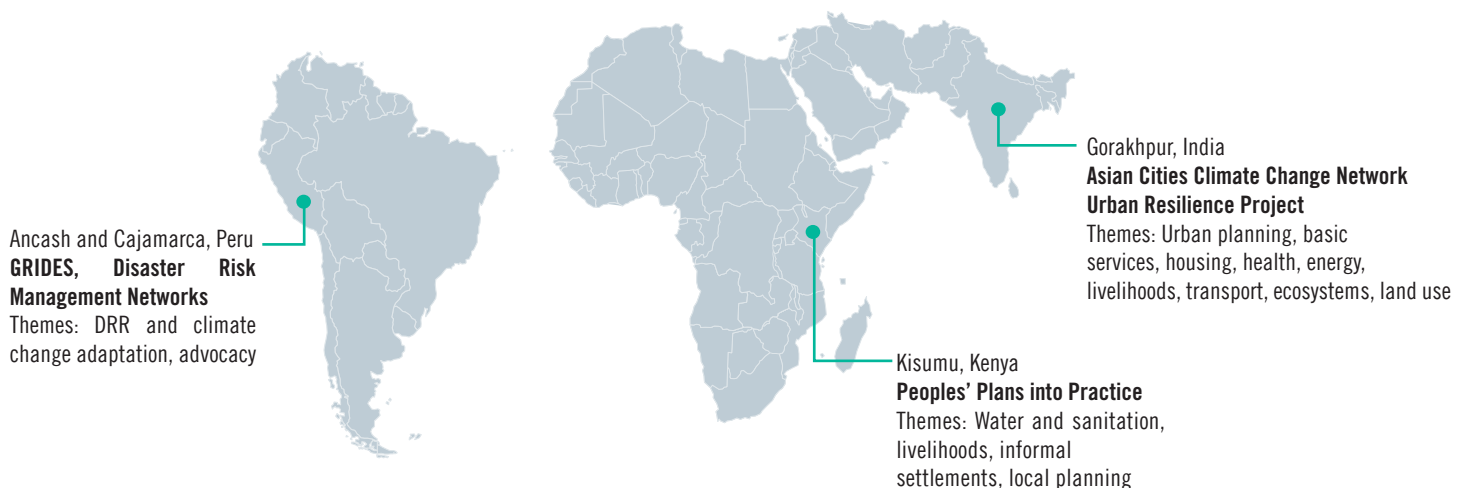
Why gender approaches matter to Climate Compatible Development

Emerging Findings from the *Drivers and Challenges of Gender Equality and Climate Compatible Development in Urban Locations*, a CDKN funded research project



On-going research led by Practical Action Consulting is exploring the advantages and challenges of pursuing climate compatible development (CCD) from a gender perspective, with a specific focus on urban locations. We aim to generate useable insights for policy and practice to foster more inclusive development and climate interventions.

Research teams in Peru, India and Kenya are currently analysing empirical evidence from three case studies selected to reflect past and current projects in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.



Preliminary Findings

Men and women have shared with us how climate change has different impacts on them in urban settings. For example:

- ▶ Urban women often cite food, water, health and sanitation as key areas where they experience direct impacts of climate change and disaster events.
- ▶ People living in urban settings appear to have weaker social networks than in rural areas, although in times of stress (such as during and after flooding), urban communities pull together and social cohesion is reinforced.
- ▶ Women who have migrated from rural to urban areas find that their traditional knowledge is no longer relevant or valued in decision-making processes.
- ▶ Access to basic sanitation is extremely problematic, particularly for women, in flood affected urban settlements. This impacts on their health and adds to their vulnerability to climate change and disasters.

We are discovering a range of drivers and constraints to the integration of gender approaches to support CCD:

- ▶ Organisations using participatory methods to implement their activities were able to create an enabling environment for women to engage in the project, even if they did not follow an explicit gender approach.
- ▶ Requirements from donors to address gender considerations are a key driver for organisations to apply a gender approach in climate change initiatives.
- ▶ Cultural and social barriers continue to restrict urban women's participation in decision-making at community level and higher up the ladder. On the other hand, many urban women play a leading role in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, for example by sharing new information (such as evacuation plans) with family members and by participating in disaster simulations and post-disaster recovery.
- ▶ The lack of awareness and sensitivity towards gender equality within government agencies responsible for CCD policy, planning and implementation (from local to national level) limits the transformation of gender relations and reinforces prevailing gender bias.
- ▶ CCD programming that does not integrate a gender approach fails to monitor, evaluate or document progress and outcomes pertaining to gender relations and equality. Therefore, creating space for organisations to learn and reflect on their practice can support the incorporation of gender issues and improve project outcomes.

Coming soon in 2016...

Full findings and recommendations will be published in early 2016 through a series of reports and briefs and presented at the Overseas Development Institute, London, as well at other relevant conferences and events.

Want to know more?

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Visit cdkn.org/project/gender-equality-climate-compatible-development
or practicalaction.org/blog/news/national-plan-of-action-on-gender-and-climate-change-in-peru/

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