

Assessment of gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness of the national and local green economy-related policies, action plans, bylaws, ordinances, structures, and budgets in Ethiopia

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Dec. 2024

Jimma, Oromia, Ethiopia



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**



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1. Introduction

An Inclusive Green Economy is a substitute to today's dominant economic model, which generates widespread environmental and health risks, encourages wasteful consumption and production, drives ecological and resource scarcities and results in inequality. It is an opportunity to advance both sustainability and social equity as functions of a stable and prosperous financial system within the contours/demarcations of a finite and fragile planet. It is a pathway towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, eradicating poverty while safeguarding the ecological thresholds which improve human health, well-being, social equity and development, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It promotes the transition to economies that are low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive¹. An inclusive green economy is increasingly recognized as a route that can lead to sustainable development allowing a low-carbon and climate-resilient approach, improved resource efficiency, healthy and more resilient environment, greater economic opportunities and inclusive societies. Importantly, inclusive green economy policies and strategies need to cut across different sectors and institutions to be effective². Generally, green economy has four pillars — i.e., economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, and cultural sustainability; these pillars are designed to ensure balanced growth that considers not only financial and environmental factors but also social equity and cultural preservation³. An inclusive economy ensures that all parts of society, especially poor or socially disadvantaged groups, have full, fair, and equitable access to market opportunities as employees, leaders, consumers, entrepreneurs, and community members.

Inclusive green economy can significantly be affected by climate change; i.e., climate change has potential to do significant economic harm. In fact, climate affects nearly every aspect of our lives — our food sources, our transport infrastructure, what clothes we wear, our livelihoods, our health, and our future. Before we go further, what is climate itself? Climate refers to the long-term regional or global average of temperature, humidity and rainfall patterns over seasons, years or decades; while the weather can change in just a few hours, climate changes over longer timeframes. In a similar vein,

¹ UN Environmental Program (UNEP) (2024). [What is an Inclusive Green Economy?](#)

² United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2015). [Inclusive green economy policies and structural transformation in Ethiopia](#)

³ Rose, A. (2024). [Exploring the 4 Pillars of Sustainable Development: A Complete Guide](#)

climate resilience is the ability to recover from climate-related shock such as floods and droughts; it is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Improving climate resilience involves assessing how climate change will create new, or alter current, climate-related risks, and taking steps to better cope with these risks. And, climate-resilient economy is the one that can withstand or recover quickly from climate impacts in the short and long terms, and this is essential to a community's long-term well-being⁴.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has embraced Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, as well as conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) as part of its strategy to achieve a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE). Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) is a long term (2010-2030) development strategy of Ethiopia. Its goal is to ensure fast and Carbon neutral economy growth to help Ethiopia achieve a middle-income country status by 2025. There are four priority pillars of the CRGE. These are agriculture, forestry, energy, and industry. Among the key strategies selected for fast tracking are avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation, improved forest management and forest enhancement through reforestation/afforestation collectively known as REDD+. The national REDD+ initiative is therefore an initiative to support implementation of CRGE. The CRGE strategy has identified the forest sector as one of the four priority sectors for fast tracking and establishing a policy framework for implementing REDD+ in the country^{5, 6}.

Since the launch of the Climate Resilient and Green Economy (CRGE) strategy in 2011, Ethiopia has established a rich policy landscape coupling economic growth with climate change action. The country's ambitious climate targets are focused on ensuring low-carbon energy development, conservation of its vast forest reserves, and practicing climate smart agriculture, while mainstreaming adaptation and resilience as an important priority⁷.

⁴ U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit (2024). Planning Framework for a Climate-Resilient Economy

⁵ Ethiopia's Environmental Protection Authority (2011). Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy: The path to sustainable development

⁶ Oromia Environmental Protection Authority (2023). Oromia National Regional State Forested Landscape Program-ERP

⁷ Padmanabhi, R. and Meattle, Ch. (2022). Landscape of Climate Finance in Ethiopia

Adopting green economy practices on this large scale will unbutton economic growth, create jobs for the growing population, and deliver wider socio-economic benefits. The transition to a green economy will transform current economic development practices and will touch most sectors. Ethiopia has the domestic potential to contribute to the global effort to mitigate climate change. Green economy initiatives will create macroeconomic benefits. By establishing a more secure electric power supply, an essential prerequisite for sustainable economic development, and increasing energy efficiencies in the transport, industry, and buildings sectors, Ethiopia can reduce its current dependency on fossil fuel imports by about one-third. This effect alone could improve the balance of payments by several billion dollars in 2030. Furthermore, low carbon emissions can be marketed as a competitive advantage for Ethiopia's exports. The green economy strategy also entails wider socio-economic benefits. Public health will improve with better water and air quality. Green growth will accelerate rural development by reducing soil erosion and increasing soil fertility, hence food security, and rural employment. Households will benefit from higher energy efficiency – especially from more efficient cooking and transport. This should increase domestic savings and thus, the capacity to invest in improving labor and land productivity and to participate more profitably in domestic and export markets. More importantly, creating domestic Ethiopian incentives for both public sector and private sector investment (enterprise development in green sectors) could prove to be crucial; shifting domestic investments toward “green” activities can be followed in parallel with the international climate agenda⁸.

In line with the aforementioned endeavor, SOS Children's Villages is currently implementing “**Grow Equal Project**” to promote equal rights, opportunities, and access to resources for women and girls, focusing on green economic opportunities and social protection. In two Kebeles (Jiren and Mendera Koch) of Jimma Town alone, the project reaches 650(358 Females) at-risk children with their 260(234 Females) caregivers 15% of which are families with persons with disability), 1 Community-Based Organization (CBO), 1 Savings and Credit Co-operative (SACCO) for four years (from January 2024 to December 2027). In this way, the project can build the capacity of local government officials and technical staff to include child protection, gender equality, and disability inclusion in social protection services as well as climate-change-related policies and

⁸ Steve Bass, Shannon Wang, Tadele Ferede and Daniel Fikreyesus (2013), “Making Growth Green and Inclusive: The Case Of Ethiopia”, OECD Green Growth Papers, 2013-07, OECD Publishing, Paris. doi: 10.1787/5k46dbzhrkhl-en

action plans. Moreover, the project can improve self-reliance within participating families through psychosocial and economic capacity-building interventions to assist them have the required confidence, knowledge, attitudes, skills, and resources to be able to provide better care and protection for their children. Hence, SOS Children's Villages in Jimma planned to conduct an assessment on gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness of the national and local green economy-related policies, action plans, bylaws, ordinances, structures, and budgets in Ethiopia. Having awareness of how gender influences the opportunities of individuals in society (being gender-sensitive) and actively addressing the causes of gender inequality (being gender-responsive) are crucial for the success of a policy or a program. Gender-sensitivity indicates gender awareness and means that a policy or program recognizes the important effects of gender norms, roles, and relations; and gender-responsiveness refers to a policy or program which fulfils two basic criteria: a) gender norms, roles, and relations are considered and b) measures are taken to actively reduce the harmful effects of gender norms, roles, and relations, including gender inequality⁹. Particularly, gender-responsiveness means paying attention to the unique needs of females, valuing their perspectives, respecting their experiences, understanding developmental differences between girls and boys, women and men and ultimately empowering girls and women. And, gender-responsive programming and policies is intentionally employing gender considerations to affect the design, implementation and results of programs and policies. Gender-responsive programs and policies reflect girls' and women's realities and needs¹⁰. Furthermore, inclusion is connection to the network of community development. And, inclusive policies promote understanding, transparency, equal treatment for all individuals, and they should foster a sense of belonging and eliminate barriers to participation. That is, inclusive policy making enhances transparency, accountability and public participation and builds civic capacity¹¹. Cognizant of these realities, and as an experienced consultant in this area, I successfully completed this important task based on the TOR and within the interest of SOS CV Jimma program Location.

⁹ GPE (Global Partnership for Education), UNGEI (United Nations Girls' Education Initiative) (2017). *Guidance for Developing Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plans*. Washington D.C.: The Global Partnership for Education.

¹⁰ United Nations Children's Fund (2017). *Gender Equality: Glossary of terms and concepts*. UNICEF.

¹¹ OECD (2013), "Inclusive policy making", in *Government at a Glance 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2013-51-en

2. Objectives

The general objective of the consultancy was to assess the gender-responsiveness and inclusion aspects of climate-focused policies and strategies in Ethiopia, and to develop a policy brief based on the assessment results.

Specifically, the consultancy:

- examined gaps in the existing climate-focused and green economy-related policies, strategies, bylaws, ordinances, structures, action plans and budgeting in Ethiopia regarding their gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness
- scrutinized to what extent the current climate-focused and green economy-related policies, strategies, laws, regulations, action plans and budgeting policies for gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness have been adapted and implemented locally (E.g., in the context of Grow Equal Project in Jimma)
- pin-pointed adverse effects the gaps in these climate-focused and green economy-related policies have had on women, girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups
- provided recommendations to policymakers for enhancing gender-responsiveness and inclusion in these policies and strategies, and their adaptation and implementation mechanisms
- developed a policy brief based on the findings and pragmatic recommendations

3. Methodology

Largely, document analyses and studies of relevant climate-focused and green economy-related policies, strategies, laws, regulations, action plans and budgeting concerning their gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness were conducted. Adaptation and implementation of these policies and their impacts on women, girls, persons with disabilities and different social groups were also assessed. Best practices and gaps in existing policies and strategies were identified, and comprehensive recommendations for improvement were provided. Moreover, key informant interviews were conducted with Jimma Town Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Jimma Town Agriculture Office, Leader of Women, Children and Youths' Affairs Bureau, Leader of Association for Persons with Disabilities, Environmental Policy Expert, Civil Society

Organizations (CSOs) working on climate change, Grow Equal Project Coordinator, Officer and Beneficiaries, to complement the findings of the document analysis. Profiles of the key informants are given in the Table below:

	Key Informant's Code	Organization	Responsibility	Experience (in years)	Educational Level
1	EPE_01	Jimma University (JU)	Environmental Policy Professor & Researcher	15	PhD, Assoc. Professor
2	CSO_01	Plan International	Gender and inclusion officer	2	MPH
3	GEP_01	SOSCV, Grow Equal Project	Project Coordinator	6	BA
4	GEP_02	SOSCV, Grow Equal Project	Project Officer	3	MA
5	B_GEP_01	Beneficiary of Grow Equal Project	House Wife & Farmer	Above 10	5 th Grade
6	B_GEP_02	Beneficiary of Grow Equal Project	House Wife & Farmer	Above 20	3 rd Grade
7	L_PWD_01	Association of People with Disability (PWD)	Leader, Association of PWD in Jimma Town	6	Diploma
8	GFP_01	Jimma Town Women's, Children's and Youth Affairs Bureau	Gender Focal Person	11	MA
9	NRM_01	Jimma Town Agriculture Office	Natural Resource Manager	11	BSc
10	EPA_01	Jimma Town Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	Environmental Protection Laws Monitoring and Implementation Officer	6	BSc

The interview guide was prepared in English. The interviews were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim and those collected in Afan Oromo and Amharic were translated into English. Field notes were taken during and after the interviews and observations. The qualitative data were coded, recoded, and then categorized to form major and sub-themes. Obviously, qualitative data require qualitative analysis. Hence, thematic analysis, complementing the desk review and content analysis for the secondary materials, was used. Moreover, qualitative findings were presented along with selected quotations of the key informants' responses, their descriptions and explanations for their meanings. Finally, integration and alignments of the findings from both the desk review and qualitative studies were carefully made.

Ethical Considerations: The following ethical considerations were taken into account — i.e., SOS Children's Villages' Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy and associated processes were followed during the assessment processes; informed consent were sought from all participants; and, when analysing and presenting data, all identifiers were removed, and findings were not attributed to specific participants.

4. Major Findings and Discussions

4.1 Gaps in Gender-responsiveness and Inclusiveness of the Existing National and Local Climate-focused and Green Economy-related Policies in Ethiopia

The critical reviews of relevant policy and strategic documents revealed that gender equality and gender integration were considered, but not explicitly as stated in Article 35 of the Ethiopia's constitution which warrants women equal rights with men in the enjoyment of rights and protections. The 1997 Ethiopia's Environment Policy, the 2011 Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, the 2019 Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH) and the Ethiopia's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC (2021) did not overtly incorporate gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness. In these documents, the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and persons with disabilities and other sidelined groups were left unnoticed. The documents frequently use gender-neutral language, implying less gender consideration and prolongation of gender inequalities. For instance, the 1997 Environment Policy's stated goal is to 'improve and enhance the health and quality of life of all Ethiopians [regardless of gender and social groups] and to promote sustainable social and economic development...' Further, as laid out in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), the Ethiopia's CRGE strategy is a vision to build a middle-income climate resilient green economy by 2025 (USD 1,000 GDP per capita) through zero net carbon growth. The impacts and costs of climate change, without gender consideration and adaptation at the national and local level could put this middle-income desire at risk. The failure to clearly address the issues of gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness may also be the failure to address discerned effects of climate change on women and girls, and men and boys.

However, the Ethiopia 1994 Constitution fully promotes gender equality and inclusiveness regarding environmental rights, environmental duty, economic and social development endeavours:

- ✓ Article 44/1 states that all persons have the right to a clean and healthy environment (environmental rights).
- ✓ Article 89/2: Government has the duty to ensure that all Ethiopians get equal opportunity to improve their economic conditions and to promote equitable distribution of wealth among them (Economic Objectives).

- ✓ Article 89/7: Government shall ensure the participation of women in equality with men in all economic and social development endeavours (Economic Objectives).
- ✓ Article 92/1: Government shall endeavour to ensure that all Ethiopians live in a clean and healthy environment (environmental duty and objective).
- ✓ Article 92/3: People have the right to full consultation and to the expression of views in the planning and implementation of environmental policies and projects that affect them directly.

In relation to the aforementioned points, an environmental policy expert – EPE_01 (a university professor who was a key informant) critically reflected as follows:

Ethiopia's environmental policy has not been revised, along with the Ethiopian Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH) and constitutional provisions mentioned above. Although the Ethiopian Climate Resilience Green Economy Strategy was updated in 2019, it still does not adequately address gender inclusion and not provide actionable steps for implementation. While such policies are advantageous in theory, they fall short in practical implementation, particularly in addressing gender inclusion. The policies recognize that women are disproportionately affected by environmental and climate issues. In some instances, they emphasize equality, while in others, they highlight women's unique challenges and the need for special attention. These two perspectives seem contradictory: if women are indeed more affected, the policies should specify measures to address their unique needs. A major shortcoming of these policies and plans is their lack of measurable outcomes, such as the number of women they aim to support. Instead, they present action plans without detailing the implementation mechanisms. The focus is theoretical, with little impact on the ground. For instance, women participate in initiatives like the Green Legacy tree-planting program, along with men, youth, and students. While tree planting contributes to climate change mitigation, it does not directly address women's specific challenges. Tree planting has both benefits and limitations, but it cannot resolve gender-related issues on its own. Ethiopia's policies and legislations/laws lacks effective implementation mechanisms. Generally, Ethiopia lacks a comprehensive green economy policy or a climate change policy that explicitly integrates gender considerations and responsive implementation measures. Furthermore, students and citizens are not adequately educated on how to integrate gender considerations into green economy initiatives. Policies should clearly outline

where and how to incorporate gender inclusion, ensuring that women are actively supported and empowered in these efforts.

A key informant from Jimma Town Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) stated that the policies, particularly the Oromia Regional State's Environmental Protection Policy considered gender equality in climate change and green economy initiatives and projects. In his words:

The environmental protection policy was prepared by the Oromia Regional State Senate ('Caffee Oromiyaa'); and as the EPA, we focus on its implementation and follow-up. The policy, for instance, emphasizes gender equality in initiatives like the Green Legacy (tree- plantation program), mandating equal (50:50) participation of men and women. Similarly, gender balance is required in green economy projects. As EPA, we have a dedicated gender-focal person who focuses not only on gender issues but also on ensuring the participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. The Urban Local Development Program (ULDP), for example, incorporates a 50:50 gender participation plan in urban sanitation initiatives. The budget allocated for green economy initiatives, primarily from ULDP, focuses on training and involvement in urban sanitation. However, most of this budget is urban-focused and does not adequately address rural areas. The primary source of funding for these initiatives is often project-based. When a project ends, its activities are typically divided between the EPA and the municipality. In most cases, the municipality takes on the primary responsibility, while the EPA focuses on training and follow-up. EPA offices monitor how various activities are implemented, ensuring compliance with environmental policies and laws. However, there is still a need to address these gaps, particularly in involving women more equitably and extending the benefits of green economy initiatives to rural areas. Generally, implementation of the policies and projects faces challenges. For example, there are gaps in assigning qualified individuals to key positions within green economy initiatives in Jimma Town. Instead, these responsibilities are often handled by focal persons alone.

Jimma Town Agriculture Officer (a key informant) raised points that totally align with the above-mentioned ideas, and added that even policy implementers, sometimes, fail to refer to the policies they supposed to properly implement.

A key informant from a civil society organization (CSO) clearly articulated that green economy-related activities such as those under the Green Legacy initiative are often performed annually without sustained community engagement. This raises the issues of comprehensiveness and sustainability of the implementation of climate-focused and green economy-related policies in Ethiopia.

Two Grow Equal Project staff (key informants) consistently addressed that clear implementation guidelines and manuals of climate-related policies are lacking, and there is misunderstanding of, for example, green economy policies and strategies at grassroots level. One of the project's key informants (senior leader) beautifully stated the grave concern as follows:

When discussing the green economy, many people still equate it solely with tree planting, reflecting a broader issue of limited awareness. Additional challenges include insufficient financing or budgeting, lack of awareness, and the absence of a comprehensive manual to guide implementation. Currently, the urban agriculture sector is the only area somewhat focused on the green economy, but even within this sector, gender issues are rarely addressed in their plans and strategies.

As clearly stated by the Grow Equal Project's staff, two beneficiaries of the project equated green activities only with agricultural endeavours, particularly planting trees (and vegetables) and caring for them. One of these said this, "In the green economy initiative, we have been planting various types of vegetation and have benefited from gardening through the 'My Food is in My Backyard'" initiative.

This indicates big gaps in awareness and actual practices regarding climate-focused and green economy-related initiatives. This is shocking and calls for concerted and continuous efforts.

4.2 Gaps in the Adaptation and Implementation of the Policies, Strategies, Budgets... in Gender-responsiveness and Inclusiveness in the Local Context

Generally, Ethiopia's climate targets are focused on ensuring low-carbon energy development, conservation of its vast forest reserves, and practicing climate smart agriculture, while mainstreaming adaptation and resilience as a key priority. Hence, the goal of Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH) is to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience. The plan and its implementation are guided by the principles of participation, coherent interventions, stakeholder empowerment, gender sensitivity, equitable implementation and partnership. NAP-ETH focuses on most vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, forestry, health, transport, power, industry, water and urban. Within these sectors, 18 adaptation options (such as mainstreaming endogenous/domestic adaptation practices, increasing resilience of urban systems, building social protection and livelihood options of vulnerable people...) have been identified for implementation at all levels and across different development sectors, recognizing the considerable diversity in context and vulnerability across Ethiopia's regions and social groups.

To facilitate effective implementation of these options, five strategic priorities have been identified — i.e., mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development policies, plans and strategies; building long-term capacities of institutional structures involved in NAP-ETH; implementing effective and sustainable funding mechanisms; advancing adaptation research and development in the area of climate change adaptation; and improving the knowledge management system for NAP-ETH. More importantly, effectiveness of NAP-ETH will be assessed in terms of the contribution for reducing vulnerability, improving adaptive capacity and supporting the wellbeing of populations and ecosystems affected by the impacts of climate change. All actors involved in implementing NAP-ETH activities will have monitoring responsibilities within their scope of operations.

However, integration of climate change adaptation in development policies and strategies particularly at Regional and Woreda levels hasn't happened yet in full-scale. Further, gender sensitivity (gender awareness or recognition of the important effects of gender norms, roles, and relations) is mentioned as one of the guiding principles of NAP-ETH. Nevertheless, what is practically more important is gender-responsiveness which (goes beyond gender-sensitivity) and refers to a policy which deeply

understands gender norms, roles, and relations, and takes measures to actively reduce the harmful effects of gender norms, roles, and relations, including gender inequality and gender-based violence. Few examples of gender-responsiveness are the following

- Changing negative gender dynamics;
- Involving marginalized women's groups at the community level in implementing gender-responsive adaptation projects;
- Setting up a devoted resilience fund for vulnerable women; and
- Using gender-sensitive criteria for prioritizing adaptation options and gender-related indicators for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions.

However, according to the EPA key informant in Jimma Town, gender-related policy activities have not been comprehensively and effectively implemented:

Whenever new policies and laws are introduced, they are intended to benefit both men and women equally, not just men. However, the primary issue with gender equality lies in the implementation phase. While policies and laws exist, they are often not properly implemented due to various factors, including low awareness and lack of attention. Women are rarely provided with sufficient training on their roles in the green economy, and they have participated mostly in safety net programs such as solid waste management, where they play significant roles in household hygiene and sanitation and, urban sanitation (waste collection) and gardening nursery activities for greenery projects. Further, in terms of green economy projects, poultry, animal-rearing and tea leaf production initiatives are being implemented in Jiren Kebele, where most women are part of the activities. Women are actively involved in safety net programs, particularly. Besides, individuals with disabilities are often the most affected by environmental challenges. For example, navigating through polluted or dirty environments can be particularly difficult for them. Hence, policies should ensure their equal engagement and, where necessary, provide special care to accommodate their unique needs. At EPA, we lack budget for advocacy and proper implementation of the policies and plans. While we have various documents and plans ready, their implementation has been hindered due to financial constraints.

The Grow Equal Project staff and beneficiaries (the key informants) also concurred to these points mentioned above.

Climate finance is crucial in backing global mitigation and adaptation efforts. Developed countries committed to mobilize \$100 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries by 2020 and through 2025. Further, negotiations are under way to establish a new climate finance goal from 2025 onwards, starting from a floor of \$100 billion annually, and taking into account developing countries' needs and priorities — i.e., reaching the \$100 billion climate finance goal is a milestone yet trillions are needed for national action plans. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) estimates that nearly \$6 trillion is needed for developing countries' climate action plans by 2030, underscoring the need to massively scale up finance. Particularly, for Ethiopia, the estimated cost of implementing NAP-ETH over the next years is approximately US\$ 6 billion per year, which is far below the amount actually needed. It is expected that these funds will be raised from a combination of financing sources, including public and private, as well as domestic and international sources. For efficiency, financing and implementation of NAP-ETH will be led by the existing CRGE mechanisms, which are in place at national, regional and Woreda levels. However, some adjustments and investments will be required to ensure that the necessary personnel and capacity are in place for effective coordination and implementation of adaptation initiatives alongside existing structures focusing on mitigation.

In 2019/20, an average of USD 1.7 billion per year of investments were committed towards climate change related activities in Ethiopia. This is only 7% of the country's estimated climate finance needs (USD 25.3 billion) and less than 2% of the country's GDP in 2019/20. Unfortunately, the current landscape of climate finance in Ethiopia is dominated by international public financiers (92%), as private finance from domestic and international investors lags (8%); the majority of Ethiopia's public climate financing is channelized through grants (70%)¹². Obviously, these situations should be serious concerns for the country's adaptation actions and their effective implementation.

In Ethiopia, there is limited progress in implementation of adaptation policies at the local level because of rigid and top-down national adaptation policies which are formulated and implemented without the consultation of local actors and vulnerable

¹² Climate Policy Initiative (2022). [Landscape of Climate Finance in Ethiopia](#)

communities. Lack of financial and human resources, poor coordination (horizontal: inter-ministerial collaboration, and vertical across the various governance levels: national-regional-local) among institutional actors and local actors' low technical capacities are also additional grave barriers for the discrepancies between the formulated adaptation policies and their tangible implementation at the local level¹³.

For outdated environmental policy of 1997 and the ineffectiveness of the other climate-focused and green economy-related policies implementation, the Environmental Policy Professor (Key Informant) raised the following real experiences:

...Another major issue lies in the structure and leadership of environmental institutions. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) exists at various government levels, but at the federal level, leadership positions are often occupied by individuals with backgrounds in unrelated fields like biology or biochemistry. While environmental professionals are present at officer levels, key leadership roles, which are critical for policy debate and sectoral development, are often not assigned to individuals with expertise in environmental sciences or directly related fields. In contrast, other sectors like health, agriculture, and trade assign leadership positions to professionals from relevant disciplines, ensuring sectoral progress. Moreover, the frequent turnover of individuals in EPA leadership roles further hampers consistency and progress. This misalignment in professional assignments is a significant reason why the environmental policy has remained unchanged for about three decades, and the other policies have not been properly implemented. Specifically, environmental professionals, including professors and experts in the field, can bring about meaningful changes. However, their contributions are often overlooked. Efforts are now underway, led by environmentalists and associations, to advocate for the assignment of qualified professionals to leadership roles in environmental institutions. Assigning the right individuals to these positions is critical to revising outdated policies, improving implementation, and addressing long-standing environmental challenges effectively.

¹³ Kidane, R., Wanner, Th. and Nursey-Bray, M. (2022). Overcoming barriers to climate change adaptation policy implementation: insights from Ethiopia. <https://doi.org/10.3828/idpr.2022.11>

4.3 Adverse Effects of the Policies' and Strategies' Gaps on Women, Girls, Persons with Disabilities and Other Vulnerable Social Groups

Climate change is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, and communities extremely today and even more tomorrow. People are experiencing the significant impacts of climate change such as changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving climate change and are continuing to rise. The 2020 research estimated that climate change on its own will force up to 132 million additional people into extreme poverty by 2030¹⁴.

Climate change adversely affects the poorest and the most marginalized sections of society —i.e., women, girls, children, persons with disabilities, local peoples and For example, gender-based inequalities, gender-defined roles in society and sociocultural constraints make women disproportionately vulnerable to adverse climate change. Women have less economic, political and legal power and are less able to cope with and are more exposed to the detrimental effects of the changing climate. Further, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change mainly because they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources¹⁵. Particularly, girls and young women are the hardest hit by climate change. Despite this, their voices are not adequately represented in climate discussions, resulting in policies that do not address their specific needs¹⁶. Obviously, climate change effects can aggravate existing gender inequalities. The biggest gendered impacts are due to existing gaps. In places with strong boy preferences, families facing scarcity due to disasters are more likely to give food and other resources to boys, take their daughters out of school or marry them young, or withdraw women from agricultural work so they focus on household chores. Unless climate policies and strategies recognise and accounts for these gaps, climate change will remain a catalyst of existing gender inequalities¹⁷.

The expert key informant from EPA emphasized that marginalization of any form harms not only the excluded individuals but also the environment and the community as a whole:

¹⁴ World Bank (2020). Climate Change and poverty: avoiding the worst impacts.

¹⁵ UN WomenWatch (2009). Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change.

[Http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/)

¹⁶OECD (2021). Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs.

¹⁷ World Bank Group (2023). Gendered Impacts of Climate Change: Evidence from Weather Shocks

One of the effects of marginalization is that individuals who should be actively involved are excluded, leading to negative environmental impacts. Women, for instance, have deep understanding of their environment and can contribute significantly to solving environmental issues. However, when they are marginalized, it becomes impossible to meet expectations and achieve desired outcomes. Excluding key public groups, such as women and people with disabilities, not only harms these individuals but also negatively affects the community as a whole. The benefits they could gain from participation are lost, and the environment they could help protect and nurture can suffer.

The environmental policy professor (the key informant) added the following specific and pragmatic detrimental effects of climate changes:

The lack of implementation of gender-responsive and inclusive policies is a collective problem, affecting all members of societies, from the top leadership to the grassroots. The consequences of this failure are disproportionately severe for certain groups, particularly women, children, and people with disabilities, who bear the brunt of these challenges two to four times more than others. For example, in the context of climate change, women are often the ones responsible for gathering firewood or animal dung for cooking. They perform this task while carrying their children on their backs, exposing themselves and their children to harsh environmental conditions such as rain, extreme heat or cold, and prolonged sunlight. These children, who require special care, face additional risks, including health issues caused by exposure to such conditions. While climate change impacts everyone, its effects are exacerbated for these vulnerable groups, who already lack adequate care and support. Currently, vulnerable groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities are not receiving the attention and encouragement they need and deserve. Their struggles are worsening over time due to the inadequate implementation of responsive and inclusive policies. For instance, environmental pollution affects everyone, but it is far more detrimental to these groups. Women, in particular, face unique challenges.

Consider the example of women and girls who use personal care products or cosmetics. Prolonged exposure to intense sunlight, exacerbated by climate change, can damage their skin. Moreover, women carry a significant burden of household responsibilities. When they venture into forests to collect firewood, they face risks such as being swept away by rivers or falling victim to violence,

including rape. The stability of families, communities, and the nation as a whole depends on the well-being of women. If women are not supported and empowered, it will have far-reaching consequences for the country's economy, security, and social cohesion. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritize the inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups in policies, programs, and initiatives to address these challenges excellently.

The key informant who is the leader of association of people with disabilities in Jimma Town shared the points raised by the environmental policy professor. The leader further added lived experiences as follows:

Climate change effects disproportionately impact vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities. For instance, individuals with disabilities often rely on specialized equipment for mobility, such as wheelchairs, which are affected by extreme weather conditions. I remember traveling to Assella for a sport's championship, where using a wheelchair in the cold early mornings felt almost impossible; it was like moving through a refrigerator. Such conditions highlight the intensified challenges that people with disabilities face due to climate change.

Ethiopia is among countries most susceptible to severe climate change such as flood and drought. These have had negative influence, for example, on agricultural production, which have been huge barrier to the country's economic growth. The incidence of droughts and floods has been identified to lessen growth potential of Ethiopia by more than one third. For instance, drought can affect health, hydroelectric energy production, and urban agriculture in Ethiopia. Thus, effective measure needed for Ethiopia is to adapt to and lessen the influence of climate change through having development responsive national strategies and practical adaptation and mitigation measures¹⁸. The policies, strategies and mitigation measures should also be gender-responsive and inclusive. Moreover, agriculture, health, and water have been affected by climate change, and its effects will continue to amplify without the right adaptation and mitigation measures. For instance, climate change-related health problems, such as mortality and morbidity due to floods and heat waves, vector-borne diseases, water-

¹⁸ Motuma, F.Y. (2017). A Review on Policy Change for Climate Change in Ethiopia. *Journal of Resources Development and Management*; 28.

borne diseases, meningitis, and air pollution-related respiratory diseases have been increasing in the country¹⁹.

Grow Equal Project beneficiaries, the two staff who participated in this assessment and the CSO participant fully agreed with the above-mentioned climate change impacts, particularly, on the vulnerable members of the communities. For example, the CSO key informant forwarded the following critical points:

Climate change impacts extend beyond agriculture sectors, disproportionately affecting women, children, and people with disabilities. Thus, their inclusion and integration into green economy initiatives are critical. To address these challenges, there is a need for stronger collaboration between sectors, such as the agricultural office, women and children affairs, and social affairs. For example, agricultural offices must work more closely with social affairs and disability associations to ensure the participation of people with disabilities in green economy activities and benefit from it. National strategies and guidelines should also be evaluated based on the level of sectoral engagement and collaboration observed at the grassroots level.

Further, if the climate condition changes, there might be high runoff which can significantly impact access to essential services such as roads to health facilities, isolating communities in need. When families lose income and face food insecurity, they may resort to harmful coping mechanisms, such as early marriages for their daughters, to mitigate their economic struggles. In such scenarios, the health system is also at risk of failure. When famine or extreme hardship strikes, reproductive health, and other essential health issues are often deprioritized. This disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, particularly girls, women, and people with disabilities. People with disabilities, such as those with hearing, vision, or mobility impairments, face even greater challenges during crises of climatic change. If survival depends on physically escaping a dangerous situation, these individuals are at a higher risk due to their impairments. This raises an important question: do we have systems or platforms in place that truly include and support people with disabilities in such emergencies? Without inclusive systems and institutions, the reproductive and general health of people with disabilities can deteriorate further. Addressing

¹⁹ Simane et al. (2016). Review of Climate Change and Health in Ethiopia: Status and Gap Analysis. *Ethiop J Health Dev.* 2016;30(1 Spec Iss):28–41.

these gaps is critical to ensuring that no one is left behind, particularly during times of climate-related crises and beyond.

Agreeing with the well-narrated points above, one of the key informants from Grow Equal Project commented the following:

The exclusion of women and other vulnerable groups from green economy initiatives has multifaceted consequences. These groups face compounded challenges, particularly in areas such as food security, water availability, and climate resilience. If conditions worsen, vulnerable groups are often the first and most severely affected. Recognizing the importance of the green economy is crucial it not only addresses environmental conservation but also provides income-generating opportunities for the community.

The above-mentioned detailed points are totally shared and expressed by a key informant who is the Gender Focal Person of Jimma Town, too.

4.4 Recommendations for Policymakers to Improve Gender-responsiveness and Inclusiveness of Policies and Strategies, and Their Adaptation and Mitigation Actions

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal Thirteen (SDG 13) states taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Its targets include strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (Target 13.1), integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (Target 13.2), and improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (Target 13.3). These climate actions require mobilizing tens of billions of US\$ annually to address the needs of developing and developed countries in moving towards a low-carbon economy and building resilience and adaptation. Because climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, aggravating water management problems, reducing agricultural production and food security, increasing health risks, damaging critical infrastructure and interrupting the provision of basic services such water and sanitation, education, energy and transport.

Thus, climate action which refers to efforts taken to combat climate change and its impacts is urgently needed. These efforts involve reducing greenhouse gas emissions

(climate mitigation) and/or taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future (climate adaptation). But, why is climate action important? Reducing short-lived climate pollutants will prevent millions of premature deaths each year from air pollution and climate change. A warmer climate increases public health challenges like heat-aggravated illnesses, vector borne diseases, and decreased access to safe water and food.

Climate change increasingly threatens the well-being of particularly communities that are vulnerable or underrepresented. And, its impacts can exacerbate existing social inequalities, including gender inequalities. To reduce the current inequalities, effectively implementation of inclusive climate action can greatly help. Inclusive climate action refers to reducing the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable and ensuring the benefits and burdens of climate action are equitably distributed. Climate action becomes inclusive by engaging a wide range of stakeholders, designing policies that are fair and accessible, and equitably distributing the policy impacts. Inclusive climate action ensures that climate adaptation and mitigation efforts consider equity and provide benefits to everyone. It assists to address both climate change and, social and economic inequalities; it also provides extra benefits such as greater economic opportunity, improved health and well-being, and better natural resource management. To achieve inclusive climate action, search for opportunities to implement climate actions that directly benefit low-income, underrepresented, and vulnerable communities, measure the impact of inclusive climate action and adjust as needed, and form partnerships amongst government, business, and NGOs²⁰.

When developing and revising adaptation actions and implementation related to National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), it is vital to consider enhancing the adaptive capacity of the local communities and integration of existing indigenous knowledge for overcoming climate vulnerabilities²¹. In addition, implementing contextualized climate change adaptation measures can reduce the potential effects of adverse climate change such as drought on socioeconomic activities of the local communities²².

²⁰ USAID (2024). Inclusive Climate Action: An Emerging Perspective

²¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC (2023). National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Progress in the Formulation and Implementation of NAPs.

²² Gameda et al. (2024). Drought Characterization Using Multiple Indices over the Abbay Basin, Ethiopia. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w16213143>

In congruent with the aforementioned ideas, the environmental policy professor (the key informant) added the following essential points:

The best solution to address the current gaps is fostering inclusive discussions that involve all individuals and citizens, particularly marginalized groups. These discussions should adopt a bottom-up approach rather than the traditional top-down method. This means starting at the grassroots level and ensuring the discussion points reach top policymakers, incorporating input from the bottom. A critical aspect of bridging these gaps is the allocation of budgets with a proper and strategic plan for implementation. Engaging all concerned individuals and sectors, from the grassroots to the upper levels of governance, is essential. Diverse stakeholder involvement, including kebele leaders and representatives from relevant sectors such as health, agriculture, and environment, is vital for effective outcomes.

Budget allocation should prioritize prevention strategies and be accompanied by genuine care and commitment to ensuring gender equality. A detailed implementation strategy that addresses gender inclusivity and responsiveness is crucial. To resolve the problems and low implementation observed in fostering a gender-inclusive economy, the following elements are necessary: proper budgeting (adequate financial resources must be allocated to ensure effective implementation, qualified professionals (assigning the right professionals with relevant expertise is essential for achieving tangible outcomes) and timely implementation (ensuring that policies and initiatives are implemented within appropriate timelines to address urgent needs).

The policy expert forwarded even more practical and helpful inputs:

As sustainable solutions, drawing lessons from within Ethiopia is very important. For instance, the Konso people have demonstrated exemplary environmental stewardship. Despite initially unfavourable conditions, they implemented watershed management practices that made their land productive, earning recognition from UNESCO. Their culture promotes environmental conservation, such as requiring individuals to plant two trees for every tree cut for house construction. This practice is a valuable lesson for the entire nation. Similarly, the Borana people strictly prohibit tree-cutting, reflecting their deep respect for environmental sustainability. Learning from such indigenous practices should be prioritized and incorporated into national strategies. We can integrate the environmental values of communities like Konso and Borana into the educational

curriculum to instil a culture of environmental responsibility from an early age. Further, currently environmental science is taught in grades 1 to 4, but it is replaced by general science from grade 5 onwards, leaving a gap in focused environmental education as students progress. This inconsistency raises the question: why the environmental science not continued at higher levels, including university? Teachers play a crucial role in fostering environmental awareness and must be equipped to emphasize the importance of environmental issues in their teaching. Religious leaders should also contribute by incorporating environmental topics into their teachings within religious institutions and communities. Students must be actively engaged in environmental practices, as they are the future custodians of the environment. The government has a responsibility to monitor environmental education and allocate adequate budgets to support it. Policymakers must ensure that policies and strategies are actionable, providing clear implementation mechanisms. In all these efforts, gender-responsive and inclusive policies must be implemented with special attention to the needs of every individual in the country. This requires not only theoretical inclusion but also practical measures to ensure that vulnerable groups, including women, are given the support and opportunities they need to contribute to and benefit from sustainable environmental development on a climate-resilience and a green economy basis.

The professor also narrated the role of political commitment and restoring biodiversity in combating impacts of climate change and ensuring responsive and inclusive climate action:

Environmental issues are deeply interconnected with politics, yet they often receive less attention compared to health, agriculture, and economic matters. It is essential to involve politicians and ensure their commitment to addressing environmental challenges. Political engagement is crucial because the success of environmental initiatives hinges on strong leadership and policy enforcement. Historically, Ethiopia has examples of politically driven environmental stewardship. The Derg regime, for instance, was recognized for its focus on tree planting and forest conservation. Drawing from this, contemporary politics should adopt strict measures to protect the environment and combat climate change. Environmental crimes, such as deforestation and illegal charcoal production, must be met with severe penalties to deter repeated offenses. Currently, the penalties for such activities are minimal, failing to discourage destructive practices. In addition, indigenous practices of biodiversity

conservation, like those observed around Ambo in West Shoa, should be encouraged and replicated in other regions. The loss of indigenous tree species due to insufficient attention to environmental issues is alarming and demands immediate action. Regions like Jimma, which rely on coffee production, demonstrate the importance of forest conservation as it directly supports their livelihoods and mitigates climate change.

However, a significant challenge lies in large-scale investments that clear vast areas of forests without regard for environmental consequences. For example, in the Gambella region, extensive tracts of land are allocated to both domestic and foreign investors. While investment can drive development, the current approach often involves deforestation and disruption of natural ecosystems. The lack of rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) before initiating such projects exacerbates the problem. To address this, EIAs must be mandatory at all phases of development projects and strictly enforced. Politicians must prioritize the integration of environmental considerations into policy decisions, ensuring sustainable development that balances economic growth with ecological preservation. Furthermore, laws protecting the environment must be strengthened and strictly implemented to safeguard Ethiopia's biodiversity and natural resources. Ultimately, environmental issues are issues for everyone, but their resolution requires the active involvement of political leaders. Political will and accountability are indispensable for fostering a culture of sustainability and ensuring the long-term well-being of the nation.

The CSO key informant clearly stated that bottom-up, than top-down, approach ought to be followed in the examination of the implementation of current policies to understand their impacts, changes they have brought about, and shortcomings. Such findings can provide concrete evidence for policy redesigning, adjustments, or the creation of new and more effective policies. Communities often possess practical insights from on-the-ground experiences, which can significantly enhance policy implementation. She further added the following crucial points:

Collaboration and integration among different programs and NGOs must be prioritized. While various projects may be working in this area, not all may have specific plans to address the green economy. However, it is essential to explore how they can create synergies. By pooling their resources and aligning their efforts, they can collectively advance green economy initiatives. Government and non-governmental organizations coordinators, i.e., the finance sectors,

should take the lead in creating and facilitating platforms that bring stakeholders together to work towards common goals. Additionally, different projects must be integrated to address challenges holistically.

The Jimma Town Agriculture Officer forwarded exactly the same ideas as above. He also added the following:

Strengthening the relationship between experts and political leaders is critical to achieving better performance and solutions for environmental issues. Combating global challenges like climate change requires a collective effort from government offices, communities, and individuals.

The Jimma Town Gender Focal Person (key informant) forwarded the following additional points as recommendations:

Strengthening women's and other vulnerable groups' involvement in the green economy is essential. By including them, we can reduce harmful practices and promote sustainable livelihoods. Climate change poses serious health risks and diseases, which disproportionately affect vulnerable groups such as women. Engaging these communities meaningfully in climate-focused and green economy initiatives will not only protect the environment but also improve their resilience and overall well-being.

Ethiopia's policy makers need to fully integrate inclusivity and gender-responsiveness considerations in current policies, strategies, their adaptations and implementation. In doing so, special attention should be given for women, children, girls, youth and local and marginalized communities. Contextualized and immediate measures are necessary to avoid disastrous consequences and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

In the powerful words of the Grow Equal Project Senior Leader (One of the Key Informants):

We emphasize the need for a comprehensive, gender-based green economy framework that includes clear implementation mechanisms and adequate budgeting. Tree planting and forest restoration alone cannot solve the challenges we face. What is needed is an integrated policy that is inclusive of all community members, ensuring no one is left behind.

5. Conclusion

The Ethiopia's Environment Policy, Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, Climate Resilient Green Economy National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH), the Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), action plans, guidelines and operational manuals have not integrated gender considerations to the level expected, particularly at local level. The documents have had clear gaps with regard to gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness; the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, youths, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups were not duly considered specially during actual implementation at grassroots level. Further, there have not yet been pragmatic integration of climate change adaptation of policies and strategies, and mitigation actions specifically at Regional, Woreda, City/Towns levels. The limited climate finance/budget has even made the adaptation, mitigation and practical implementation endeavours worse. The circumscribed progress in implementation of adaptation policies at the local level has mainly been because of unmalleable/stiff and top-down national adaptation policies and strategies (which are developed and implemented without the consultation of key local stakeholders, women, youths, persons with disabilities and vulnerable/marginalized communities), shortage of financial and skilled human resources, poor coordination among institutional actors and local actors' low technical capacities. And, obviously lack of proper implementation of inclusive and gender-responsive climate actions have had detrimental effects mainly on the poorest and the most sidelined segment of the society —i.e., women, girls, children, youths, persons with disabilities, and local communities.

6. Recommendations (for Jimma, in Grow Equal Project Context)

Based on the major findings, the following recommendations are given to be utilized locally in the context of Jimma's Grow Equal Project:

- At local level, the climate-focused and green economy-related policies, strategies, action plans, bylaws, ordinances, structures, and budgets ought to be gender-responsive and inclusive, particularly during their implementation at grassroots level.
- The power of nature to ecosystem restoration and as climate solution is enormous. Bringing nature's green spaces back to our localities can cool down temperature during heat wave. Apparently, on a sunny day, one tree has the same cooling power as two domestic air-conditioning units. Thus, re-educating the local community to nurture the nature can greatly assist the efforts of reducing the impacts of climate change on, and maximizing the benefits to the community themselves.
- Mainstreaming gender in each sector (including agriculture) is needed at the grassroots implementation level to help achieve green economy initiative. For example, family gardening, vegetable and fruit production for food and income generation can be strengthened. Similarly, the promotion of poultry production can benefit women and girls, because poultry production is usually dominated by women and income from poultry products is generally controlled by women.
- Planting 'Enset' ('Qoccoo/Warqee'), as a coping mechanism for climate change, can also be encouraged. This plant is drought-resistant, and nutritious to eat. Grow equal project can support the direct beneficiaries to maximize the benefits from 'Enset', by reducing its intensive labour burden on women and girls, and by ensuring gender equality in this regard (and beyond).
- Particularly, Jiren Kebele of Jimma Town partly relies on coffee production which demonstrates the importance of forest conservation as it directly supports the communities' livelihoods and boost climate adaptation. Jimma's Grow Equal Project needs to maximize this golden opportunity.
- The Grow Equal Project ought to continuously educate its direct beneficiaries some actions (such as saving energy at home, eating more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts, and less meat and dairy, planting native species, cleaning-up

environment, and the like) to reduce their impacts on their environment, and to enhance benefits.

- As part of its **advocacy work**, the Grow Equal Project should work with religious, cultural, and opinion leaders, key government offices and other civil society organizations (CSOs) to enhance climate-resilience and green economy opportunities of particularly marginalized children/youths and their parents, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Collaboration among key stakeholders is crucial to develop tailored solutions that can effectively address climate change induced impacts and build resilience.
- Through its **advocacy work designed to change practices**, grow equal project ought to focus on capacity-building (e.g., through training) and media engagements (including social medias).

7. Acknowledgements

The consultant/author is grateful to the key informant interviewees for their readiness to share their time, energy, expertise and experiences on this relevant global and national issues. I would also like to thank SOS Children's Village Jimma Program Location for providing me with this golden opportunity. I also thank the data collector (and transcriptionist) Gutama Haile Degefa, and facilitator Ahmed Abdu Kiyar. Specifically, Gutama's contributions were extensive.

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9. Annexes

9.1 Documents Used for the Assessment

- Ethiopia 1994 Constitution
- Ethiopia's Environment Policy (1997)
- Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy: The path to sustainable development (2011)
- Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy National Adaptation Plan (2019)
- The Sustainable Development Goals Report (2024)
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Landscape of Climate Finance in Ethiopia (2022)
- Ethiopia's Capacity Gaps in Accessing Adaptation Funding: Experiences, successes and remaining challenges
- Ethiopia's Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II)
- Integrating Gender Considerations in Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process: Analysis and recommendations (2019)
- Ethiopia's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC (2021)
- Ethiopia's Submission on Gender and Climate Change (2019)
- Gender Analysis for Ethiopia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2021)
- The benefits of a gender audit of climate action: Lessons from Ethiopia, by Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), 2024

9.2 Key Informant Interview (KII) Guide

Prof. Berhanu Nigussie's Consultancy Firm

(Dhaabbata Gorsaa/ አማካሪ ድርጅት)

Jimma Town, Oromia, Ethiopia

Section I: Written consent (To be signed by a key informant/ an interviewee)

✓ Hello! Good morning/Good afternoon! My name is _____. I came from Prof. Berhanu Nigussie's Consultancy (Dhaabbata Gorsaa/ አማካሪ ድርጅት) which supports SOS Children's Village Jimma Program Location in conduction an **assessment of gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness of the national and local green economy-related policies, action plans, bylaws, ordinances, structures, and budgets in Ethiopia**. I need your reflective ideas on this issue. If you agree to participate in this assessment, I will ask you few questions on this topic. The interview may take about an hour. If you have any question, you may ask now. If you want to ask later, please contact the principal investigator, Prof. Dr. Berhanu Nigussie (0920848795). Are you willing to participate?

I certify that the purpose and potential benefits of this assessment have been explained very well.

Name of interviewee (Code) Signature Date

Dear participant,

- The facilitator may politely interrupt you only to bring you back on track or for clarity issues
- Keep all ideas exchanged confidentially
- Do not share details of the interview later with others
- I would like to start recording the interview and taking notes, and start the audio recorder.
- The main reason of the notes is to make sure that the information collected is specific

Section II: General information of the setting

Date: -----

Time: -----

Place: -----

Name of the interviewer: -----

Section III: General information of the interviewee

Name: -----

Educational Level: -----

Institution/Organization: -----

Responsibility/Role: -----

Experience on this role (in year): -----

Sex: -----

Section IV: Interview guide/questions

Definition and Description of Key Terms/Phrases (Tip for Interviewer)

- **Climate** refers to the long-term regional or global average of temperature, humidity and rainfall patterns over seasons, years or decades; while the weather can change in just a few hours, climate changes over longer timeframes. Climate affects nearly every aspect of our lives — our food sources, our transport infrastructure, what clothes we wear, our livelihoods, our health, and our future
- **Climate resilience** is the ability to recover from climate-related shock such as floods and droughts; it is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. And, climate-resilient economy is the one that can withstand or recover quickly from climate impacts in the short and long terms, and this is essential to a community's long-term well-being.
- **Green economy:** is an economic model that prioritizes the success of human well-being and social equity, while reducing environmental risks and ecological dangers; it encourages sustainable development without degrading the environment (or by fostering social and environmental sustainability). More specifically, it motivates economies to become more sustainable and low-carbon, and ensures that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services for our continued wellbeing. The green economy is inclusive and non-discriminatory.
- **Gender-sensitivity:** indicates gender awareness and means that a policy or program recognizes the important effects of gender norms, roles, and relations
- **Gender-responsiveness:** refers to a policy or program which fulfils two basic criteria: a) gender norms, roles, and relations are considered and b) measures are taken to actively reduce the harmful effects of gender norms, roles, and relations, including gender inequality
- **Inclusive policies:** promote understanding, transparency, equal treatment for all individuals, and they should foster a sense of belonging and eliminate barriers to participation. Particularly, **inclusiveness in economy:** ensures whether the poor or socially disadvantaged groups have full, fair, and equitable access to market opportunities as employees, leaders, consumers, entrepreneurs, and community members?

1. How do you evaluate the existing climate-focused and green economy-related policies, strategies, laws, regulations, action plans and budgeting in Ethiopia in general and in Jimma- Oromia in particular regarding their gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness?
2. What are the gaps in these policies, strategies, laws, regulations, action plans and budgeting in terms of their gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness?
3. To what extent are the current climate-focused policies in Ethiopia for gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness adapted and implemented locally (E.g., in Jimma, Grow equal project context)
4. What adverse effects can the possible gaps in these climate-focused and green economy-related policies have on women, girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups?
5. What can be done to narrow-down the existing gaps in these policies, strategies, laws, regulations, action plans and budgeting, and to ensure gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness?
6. Specifically, what are the gaps in the policies, in their adaptation and implementation, and What recommendations to policymakers can be provided to improve gender-responsiveness and inclusion in these policies in the local context (i.e., Jimma, for Grow Equal Project)
7. If you have additional points to forward on this issue, you are very welcome?

Thank You So Much Indeed/Guddaa Galatooma!!