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REPORT ON THE FUND'S GENDER SCORECARD IMPLEMENTATION FOR FY24

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1. INTRODUCTION

In March 2016, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) adopted the Gender Policy and Action Plan (2017-2019), with the aim to strive to uphold women's rights as universal human rights and to attain the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all Fund operations through a gender mainstreaming approach. In March 2021, the Board approved the updated Gender Policy (AF GP) and Gender Action Plan (GAP 2021-2023). The AF GP aims to ensure that projects and programs supported by the Fund provide equal opportunities for women and men, regardless of their background, age, race, ethnicity, religion, class, language, or ability, as well as to measure the outcomes and impacts of its activities on women and men's resilience to climate change impacts and their ability and agency to address gender-differentiated vulnerability to climate change.

In compliance with the GAP 2021-2023, the Gender Scorecard (GSC) was developed to improve data collection and analysis for tracking the performance of projects in terms of gender mainstreaming activities at entry and during implementation and at exit. It is to enable the secretariat to track and report the progress of the implementation of the AF GP at the Fund's portfolio level on an annual basis.

The AF GSC consists of two main components: (i) the Gender Scorecard – Quality at Entry, which aims to collect data for projects at the entry stage (both Concept Note and Full Proposal), and (ii) the Gender Scorecard – Quality During Implementation and at exit, which gathers data on projects during implementation and at exit based on the annual project performance reports, mid-term review reports and final evaluation reports submitted by the Implementing Entities (IE). Each scorecard includes questions designed to serve as indicators for assessing how projects are integrating a gender-responsive perspective. These questions help assess the extent to which gender considerations have been integrated at various stages.

The AFB Secretariat has started a pilot implementation of the GSC for the fiscal year 2024 (FY24), and the summary of the result is contained in the FY24 Annual Performance Report (APR) (Document AFB/EFC.34/9), and the full report is presented in this document. This pilot exercise helped the AFB Secretariat identify technical and knowledge gaps, which in turn could help tailor its support for the Implementing Entities (IE) to enhance gender responsiveness in the AF-supported projects.

2. METHODOLOGY

This report is prepared based on the collected data through the pilot implementation of the AF Gender Scorecard for FY24. For FY24, the GSC was applied to projects at entry and projects during implementation. Data collection for "quality at entry" was based on the first submissions of Concept Notes (CN) and Full Proposals (FP) for single country projects and multi-country/regional projects submitted between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Therefore, the GSC for "quality at entry" was applied to CN and FP at the first submission, before technical review by the secretariat. For projects during implementation, project performance reports (PPR) submitted during the same timeframe were reviewed.

3. FINDINGS

This section will present the findings from applying the GSC to the AF-funded projects at entry and during implementation.¹

3.1 QUALITY AT ENTRY

Table 1 shows the distribution of the CN and FP which were submitted for the first time during the FY24. A total of 20 project/programme proposals were reviewed: 75% were CN, and 25% were FP. 25% of the CN and FP were submitted by National Implementing Entities (NIE), whereas 5% were submitted by Regional Implementing Entities (RIE), and Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIE) accounted for 70% of the total submissions.

Geographically, Africa accounted for 35% of the projects, Asia Pacific for 30%, Eastern Europe for 25%, and Latin America and the Caribbean for 10%. Regarding requested grant amounts, 25% of the proposals requested funding of up to \$5 million, 15% requested between \$5-10 million, and 60% requested more than \$10 million.

Proposed project durations vary, with 10% with a proposed duration of 1-3 years, 40% 3-5 years, and 50% extending beyond five years. Sector-wise, 20% of projects focus on agriculture, 5% each on coastal management, disaster risk reduction, food security, and forests, 10% on ecosystem-based adaptation, and most proposals, 50% were on multi-sectoral initiatives.

Table 1: FY24 GSC- reviewed CN and FP at first submission

¹ In the Fund, accredited IE can submit funding proposals through a one-step (as a fully-developed proposal), two-step (concept note is submitted first, and then a fully-developed project proposal) or three-step process (pre-concept note, followed by a concept note, and then fully-developed project proposal, applicable only to multi-country projects). The Concept Note (CN) is a summary of the project/programme proposal that outlines a project/programme idea and consists of 50 pages or less, while the Fully-developed proposals (FP) presents the full and comprehensive project/programme proposal consisting of 100 pages or less.

Project	Number	Percentage
Submission Type		
Concept Note	15	75.0
Full Proposal	5	25.0
Type of Implementing Entity		
National Implementing Entities (NIE)	5	25.0
Regional Implementing Entities (RIE)	1	5.0
Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIE)	14	70.0
Region		
Africa	7	35.0
Asia-Pacific (APAC)	6	30.0
Eastern Europe (EE)	5	25.0
Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	2	10.0
Requested Grant Amount (million)		
=< 5	5	25.0
5-10	3	15.0
> = 10	12	60.0
Estimated Project Duration (Years)		
1 to 3 years.	2	10.0
3 to 5 years.	8	40.0
5 years or more.	10	50.0
Sector		
Agriculture	4	20.0
Coastal management	1	5.0
Disaster Risk Reduction	1	5.0
Ecosystem-based adaptation	2	10.0
Food Security	1	5.0
Forests	1	5.0
Multi-sector	10	50.0
Total	20	100.0

3.1.1 Gender Analysis/Assessment

The Fund's GP highlights the importance of undertaking a complementary approach towards gender equality, by not only identifying and mitigating negative impacts and risks (“no harm”), but also proactively promoting opportunities to address gender gaps (“do good”). In this regard, IE is required to undertake a project/programme-specific gender assessment at the early stage of project formulation/design to establish a gender baseline, describe gender differences, analyze gender-differentiated impacts and risks, and identify opportunities to promote the empowerment of women (para. 16). The AF Guidance Document for IE on Compliance with the GP offers detailed guidance on how to conduct a gender analysis/assessment throughout the project lifecycle.

Table 2 presents the percentage of submissions that included a gender analysis (for CN) and gender assessment (for FP). It is noteworthy that a gender analysis for a CN tends to be preliminary and less comprehensive compared to a gender assessment required for a FP. Overall, the total percentage of submissions that included a gender analysis/assessment was 90%. Regarding CN, 93% of them did incorporate a gender analysis. 80% of the FP included a gender assessment.

Table 2: Percentage of submissions with a gender analysis/assessment

Submission Type	Percentage
Concept Note	93.0
Full Proposal	80.0
Total	90.0

Gender Analysis in Concept Note Proposal (CN)

Table 3 presents the percentage of CN that included various components of gender analysis. During FY24, the AF Secretariat received 15 CN. 93% of them included a Gender Analysis. This analysis was either included as a summary in the proposal or as an annex. A high proportion (93%) identified equal participation opportunities for both genders, and 87% identified gender-related risks in line with the ESP principle. 73% of the CN described the context of gender relations, and 60% included gender-specific statistics. 67% of the CN considered intersectionality in its analysis of gender dynamics.

For a ‘satisfactory’ gender analysis for CN, IE are encouraged to conduct a preliminary gender analysis that includes i) gender-specific statistics, ii) a reference to the legal framework and social norms related to gender equality, and iii) opportunities/interventions towards gender equality. The results showed that 86% of the concept notes contained a satisfactory gender analysis, i.e. the gender analysis included the above elements.

Table 3: Gender Analysis Components in Concept Notes

The gender analysis....	Percentage
Identified gender-related risks	86.7
Identified equal participation opportunities for women and men	93.3
Included gender-specific statistics	60.0
Described gender relations context	73.3
Considered intersectionality	66.7
Total number of CN proposals reviewed	15

Gender Assessments in Fully-developed Proposals (FP)

Table 4 summarizes the gender assessment components for fully-developed proposals (FP). All FP (100%) identified gender-related risks per the ESP principle. Equal participation opportunities for women and men, gender-specific statistics, and the context of gender relations were each identified in 60% of the FP. 80% of the FP reflected the inputs from stakeholder consultations and the inclusion of gender-focused stakeholders in consultations. In addition, 20% of the FPs considered intersectionality.

For a 'satisfactory' gender assessment for FP, IE are encouraged to conduct a gender assessment that includes i) gender-specific statistics, ii) a reference to the legal framework and social norms related to gender equality, iii) opportunities/interventions towards gender equality, and (iv) stakeholder consultations with a gender-sensitive/responsive approach. 80% of the gender assessments in FP were satisfactory.

Table 4: Gender Assessment Components in Full Proposals

The gender assessment....	Percentage
Identified gender-related risks	100.0
Identified equal participation opportunities for women and men	60.0
Included gender-specific statistics	60.0
Described gender relations context	60.0
Integrated stakeholder consultations with a gender-sensitive/responsive approach	80.0
Considered intersectionality	20.0
Total number of FP proposals reviewed	5

The following sections present findings on the key aspects of the gender analysis and assessments for the CN and FP, providing further details into the various components, such as the identification and substantiation of gender-related risks and potential unwanted impacts; opportunities and entry points for equitable participation and benefits for both women and men; gender statistics pertinent to the project/programme area; and gender responsive stakeholders consultation. Additionally, this section highlights examples from the CN and FP in relation to these elements

Gender-related risks

As previously indicated, 87% of CN and 100% of FP(at their first submission) included a gender analysis, which identified and substantiated the presence or absence of risks of unwanted gender-related impacts, aligning with the ESP principle on Gender Equality and women's empowerment.

Box 1: Identified Risks and Impacts Related to Gender Equality

- **Exclusion of Women:** A risk was identified that women may not be fully included in the project activities, thereby reducing their potential benefits. This can be caused by males taking over decision-making. This poses potential risks for gender equity and women's empowerment during the implementation of urban climate adaptation programs
- **Cultural Factors:** Prevailing cultural norms in rural populations maintain gender gaps and limit women's empowerment. These norms confer low social status on women and constrain their access to productive resources, jobs, and social services, reducing their potential benefits. Consequently, there is a risk that women will not benefit equitably from the proposed project's interventions.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** Risks were identified related to gender-based violence at catchment restoration work sites, including sexual harassment against women and girls
- **Child abuse and exploitation:** Project implementation activities at catchment restoration work sites were identified to have a risk of exploiting children through child labor and school dropout.
- **Social Inequalities:** Landscape restoration projects might exacerbate existing social inequalities in terms of access to available opportunities and benefits

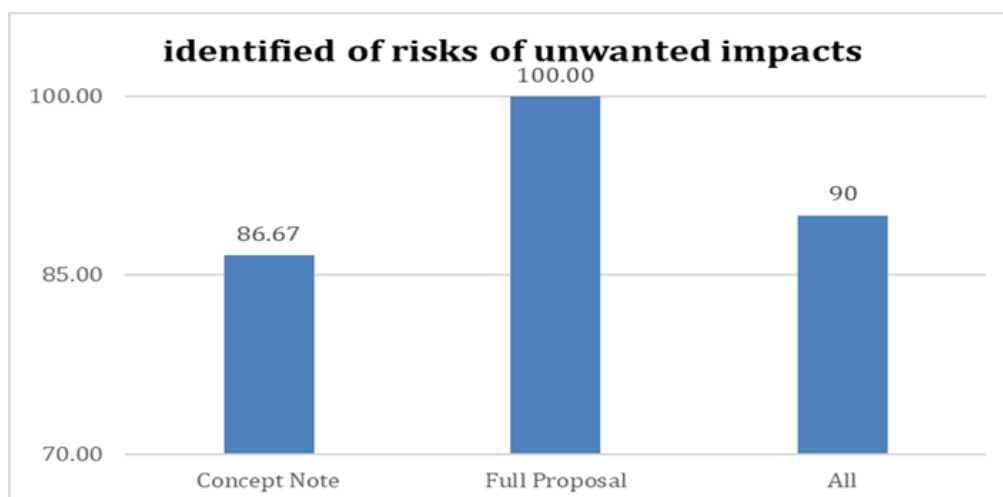


Figure 1: CN and FP that Identified Risks and Impacts Related to Gender Equality

Opportunities/entry points for equal participation and benefits for women and men

The AF GP aims to ensure equal participation and equitable benefits for all genders in the AF-supported projects. To this end, the IEs are required to identify opportunities for involvement, address vulnerabilities, and promote gender equality throughout the project lifecycle. This approach helps bridge gender gaps, uphold human rights, and foster effective gender-equal adaptation strategies. 93% of CN and 60% of FP included gender analysis which identified opportunities/entry points for equal participation and benefits for women and men.

Box 2: Opportunities and Entry Points for Equal Participation and Benefits for Women and Men

Equitable Access to Resources and Livelihood Opportunities:

- Enhance women's access to resources, livelihood opportunities, and decision-making roles to ensure equal participation and benefits in project activities.
- Provide women with technical training to enhance their skills in participating in project activities for the benefit of both women and men.
- Facilitate access to productive assets like land preparation tools and agricultural land for youth, women, and vulnerable groups.

Inclusive Decision-making and Leadership:

- Ensure equal involvement of women and men through community planning and consultations, encouraging women's participation in implementation, advisory, and decision-making roles.
- Reserve leadership positions for women in Village Development Committees and support culturally sensitive outreach strategies to enhance women's voice in decision-making and planning processes.

Women's empowerment

- Define mechanisms and activities to ensure women's participation and benefits, including

setting goals for women's participation, promoting decision-making spaces, guaranteeing access to project information, and developing women's technical capacities.

- Implement the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) to challenge social norms, build capacity, provide literacy training, introduce labour-saving technologies, involve women in management committees, and support women's income generation activities.
- Ensure a more equitable balance of workloads on project activities between men and women.
- Incorporate strategies to ensure women's inclusion in value chains, promote women's employment at higher levels, and conduct communication campaigns on new roles for women.
- Empower women for instance in arable farming through access to improved agricultural practices, technologies, and renewable energy sources to streamline tasks and contribute to household food production

Gender statistics

Gender statistics are an essential part of a gender analysis/assessment as they are crucial for understanding the contextual gender dynamics and ensuring that project interventions are well-informed and effectively targeted. Therefore, IE are highly encouraged to include gender statistics specific to the project/programme as part of their gender analysis/assessment. 60% of the CN and 60% of the FP included gender statistics particular to the project or programme area. The gender analysis within the proposals qualitatively analyzed gender statistics, demonstrating deliberate efforts to incorporate gender considerations, even in the absence of specific project-related gender data. Additionally, the CN and FP identified and highlighted existing gender data gaps. To address these gaps, the CN and FP recommended the collection of additional gender statistics during project implementation. The text box below highlights some of the key gender statistics included in the CN and FP.

Box 3: Key Gender Statistics Included in CN and FP

Agriculture, Panama:

- Percentage of female agricultural producers with direct access to land: 32.3%.
- Percentage of female agricultural producers with property titles: 69.3%.
- Percentage of employed women in the agriculture sector: 54%.

Labour Market Participation, Uruguay:

- Percentage of women participating in the labour market: 55%
- Percentage of men participating in the labour market: 69.1%

Education, Cambodia:

- Percentage of females with complete secondary education: 18.3%
- Percentage of males with complete secondary education: 31.7%
- Mean years of schooling for males: 5.9 years.
- Mean years of schooling for females: 4.4 years.
- Adult literacy rates for men: 88.4%
- Adult literacy rates for women: 79.8%

Demographic Statistics, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Percentage of female-headed households: 57%.
- Percentage of male-headed households: 43%.
- Percentage of women in the total population: 50.8%.

Gender Inequality Index, Eswatini:

- Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of the country: 0.567.
- The country's rank in the UNDP's Gender Inequality Index: 143rd out of 162.

Gender-responsive Stakeholder Consultations

The AF emphasizes the importance of gender-responsive stakeholder consultations in gender analysis and assessments. These consultations are crucial for understanding the different needs, priorities, and challenges various stakeholders face, especially women and other marginalized groups. 80% of FP integrated the stakeholder consultations into their gender assessments.

Project proposals are expected to adopt a gender-responsive participatory approach to ensure the meaningful participation of women and vulnerable groups. This approach is instrumental in incorporating their concerns and experiences into the project design and throughout the implementation of planned activities. The projects are expected to ensure the inclusion of stakeholders with a gender remit in the consultations.

Text Box 4: Examples of Gender-Responsive Stakeholder Consultation

- Integrated gender considerations at all levels of the consultation process to ensure inclusivity and address the needs of women and other vulnerable groups.
- Encouraged women's participation by: i) setting quotas for women; ii) providing childcare services during consultations; iii) arranging meetings online (to ensure women's safety); and iv) setting all-women focus groups/meetings to capture their viewpoints and address their specific concerns.
- Ensured that consultation processes at different levels, including community representatives, women's organizations and institutions with a gender mandate.
- Provided insights into the different impacts of climate change across different genders and demographics.
- Disaggregated data of participants by gender and age, to highlight participants.

3.1.2 Gender-Responsive Indicators

Including gender-responsive indicators aligned with the gender assessment in the project proposal is crucial for measuring the effectiveness of gender-responsive actions during the implementation. It contributes to ensuring that projects and programs effectively address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls and promote gender equality.

In this reporting period, 80% of FP included gender-responsive indicators. Furthermore, 75% of FP with gender-responsive indicators have such targets/indicators at all levels: activity, output, and outcome. The gender assessment findings informed the development of gender-responsive indicators.

Box 5: Examples of Gender-Responsive Indicators

- Number/Percentage of beneficiaries (direct/indirect, disaggregated by gender)
- Number/Percentage of staff trained to develop/finance climate change plans (gender-disaggregated)
- Number/Percentage of people trained, disaggregated by gender
- Number/Percentage of officials trained, disaggregated by gender
- Number/Percentage of people reached, disaggregated by gender
- Number/Percentage of women benefiting from climate-smart technologies
- Number/Percentage of women beneficiaries with access to greenhouses
- Number/Percentage of women beneficiaries with access to solar dryers
- Number/Percentage of women benefiting from agro-acceleration hubs
- Number/Percentage of women benefiting from awareness raising and capacity building for climate-smart agriculture and land degradation neutrality (LDN)
- Number/Percentage of Women Adopting Fishing Productive Technologies
- Number/Percentage of women benefiting from diversified and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) compatible livelihoods

3.1.3 Gender-Responsive interventions

Under the AF GP, IE are expected to, on the basis of the findings of the gender assessment, to articulate corresponding gender-responsive measures addressing different gender needs, equitable participation and equitable distribution of benefits, resources and rights as a project-specific gender action plan. Gender-responsive interventions are crucial to the success of its projects and programs in terms of achieving the goal of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. 80% of FP included gender-responsive interventions. Some examples are outlined below.

Box 6: Gender-responsive Interventions in the FP

- **Participation Quotas:** Setting specific quotas to ensure a minimum percentage of women participating in project activities, such as meetings, consultations, and decision-making processes.
- **Gender-Inclusive Planning:** Integrating a gender approach into the project's planning stages, ensuring that both women's and men's needs and perspectives were considered.
- **Access to Information:** Ensuring that women had equal access to project-related information, enabling them to participate fully and make informed decisions.
- **Community-Based Interventions:** Strengthening the community's adaptive capacity by focusing on interventions that address the specific vulnerabilities of women and other marginalized groups.
- **Equal Representation:** Mandating that women make up 50% of participants in key project activities, including community votes and monitoring initiatives, to ensure balanced

representation.

- **Active Participation:** Encouraging and supporting women to take on active roles in decision-making processes within the project.
- **Mitigating Adverse Impacts:** Adopting approaches specifically designed to address and mitigate any potential negative impacts on women and vulnerable groups.
- **Gender-Responsive Evaluations:** Incorporating gender-specific indicators in project evaluations to assess the effectiveness of the interventions and ensure they address gender gaps.

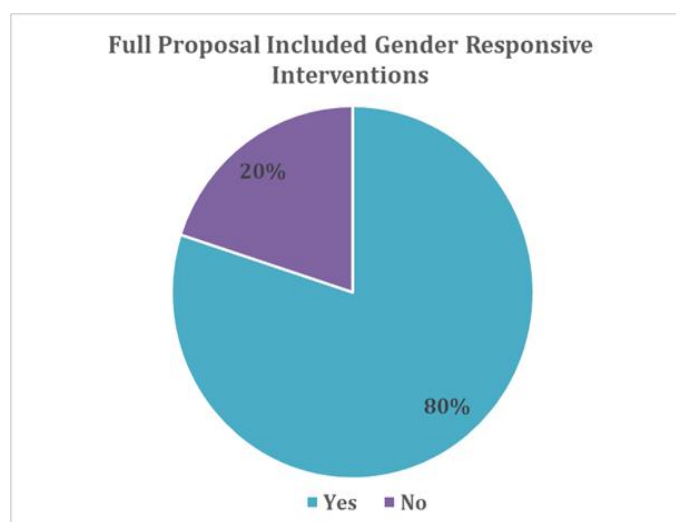


Figure 2: FP that includes Gender-responsive Interventions

3.1.4 Grievance Mechanisms

Grievance mechanisms provide a platform for stakeholders including women to voice concerns and seek redress complaints related to projects. The Fund requires that the project's grievance mechanism effectively address gender-related complaints and cover all activities, areas, stakeholders, and affected people. These mechanisms demonstrate the IE's commitment to mitigating and addressing project-related complaints including those related to gender equality. 80% of FP at their first submission received during this reporting period included a grievance mechanism to receive and address complaints related to gender inequalities. The features of the grievance mechanisms in the proposals are listed below.

Box 7: Features for Grievance Mechanisms in the FP

- **Transparency:** The mechanism operates transparently, anonymizes grievances, and communicates procedures and outcomes to stakeholders.
- **Fairness and Proportionality:** Ensures fairness in addressing all grievances, regardless of source or mode of communication.
- **Effectiveness:** Established procedures for prompt complaint resolution; regularly monitored and consulted with relevant agencies.
- **Accessibility:** Easily accessible without conditions; offers multiple communication channels (email, phone, social media, in-person).
- **Inclusivity and Comprehensive Coverage:** Applies to all project areas, accessible to both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, addressing gender-related issues.
- **Community Involvement:** Establishes community-based grievance committees; involves local leaders to empower community members.
- **Support for Vulnerable Groups:** Provides support for grievances in local languages, assists illiterate individuals, and removes barriers to lodging complaints.
- **Use of Existing Mechanisms:** Utilizes existing government or IE grievance mechanisms, with additional procedures tailored to the project.

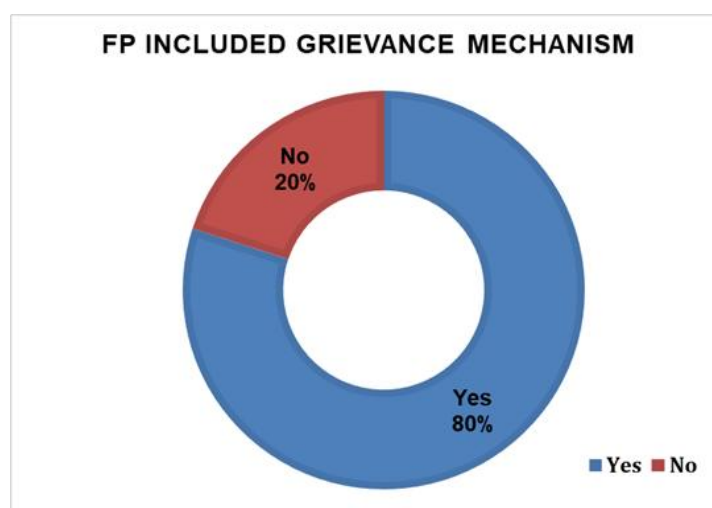


Figure 3: FP that includes Grievance Mechanisms

3.2 QUALITY DURING IMPLEMENTATION

The Secretariat reviewed 36 PPRs for FY24 for GSC ‘quality during implementation.’ The results are based on the information contained in PPRs submitted by IE on an annual basis (mainly the Gender Compliance Section but also the ESP Section and Lessons Learned Section). However, the information provided by the IE through the PPR was very limited in many instances and therefore posed difficulties for the GSC to apply consistently and produce a complete picture of the performance of the gender mainstreaming activities in the reviewed projects. Therefore, these results are inconclusive. This does not necessarily mean that IE did not implement gender mainstreaming measures outlined in the project

proposal but could mean that the IE did not include relevant information in the PPR. The pilot implementation of the GSC has been a meaningful exercise in identifying rooms for potential improvements related to IEs reporting gender-responsive implementation of the project.

Table 5: Projects reviewed for FY 24 GSC during implementation

Project Feature	Number of PPRs	Percentage (%)
Type of Implementing Entity		
National Implementing Entities (NIE)	6	17.0
Regional Implementing Entities (RIE)	7	19.0
Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIE)	23	64.0
Region		
Africa	20	56.0
Asia-Pacific (APAC)	3	8.0
Middle East	4	11.0
Eastern Europe (EE)	2	6.0
Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	7	19.0
Total	36	100.0

Table 6: Results of GSC during project implementation

	Number of PPR	Percentage (%)
Projects that reported challenges/issues regarding gender equality and women's empowerment during implementation	8	22.0
Projects that reported IE has put in place arrangements to comply with AF Gender Policy (AF GP)	29	81.0
Projects that reported EE has put in place arrangements to comply with AF GP	24	67.0
Projects that identified capacity gaps affecting AF GP compliance	3	8.0

Projects completed gender-responsive interventions	9	25.0
Projects that reported lessons learned related to gender-responsive interventions	17	47.0
Projects that reported having received grievances related to gender-related issues	2	6.0

3.2.1 Challenges/issues regarding gender equality during implementation

The PPR template requests IE to report challenges or issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment during implementation. Out of 35 PPRs, 22% reported that the projects identified issues in this area. However, many IE did not provide further information on what measures are/will be taken to overcome such challenges or issues in the PPR.

Box 8: Identified challenges regarding gender equality

- Lack of female staff (despite efforts in recruitment)²
- Insufficient technical team and knowledge of gender issues³
- Pervasive social norms that hindered women from participating in project activities⁴
- Different understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment within beneficiary communities⁵
- Lack of awareness of women beneficiaries regarding the project's objectives, activities and benefits⁶

3.2.2 Implementation arrangements to comply with AF GP

Under the AF GP, IE are required to design gender-responsive interventions (para. 16). The current PPR template requires the IE to report the measures adopted to ensure compliance with the AF GP at both the IE and EE levels. Out of 35 PPRs, 81% reported on the implementing arrangements for GP compliance at the IE level, while only 67% reported on the implementation arrangements at the EE level. The implementation arrangements range from recruiting Gender Specialists to developing/conducting training for safeguarding against sexual exploitation, sexual assault and sexual harassment (SEAH) for beneficiaries.

The current PPR template also requires the IE to indicate the effectiveness of these measures but does not require further justification. Although not required, 19% of PPR provided additional information on the efficiency of their implementation arrangements for GP compliance

² Project "Building adaptive capacity to climate change in vulnerable communities living in the Congo River Basin", implemented by WFP.

³ Project "Economic, Social and Solidarity Insertion for Resilience in the Governorate of Kairouan - IESS-Adapt", implemented by IFAD.

⁴ Project "Improving Adaptive Capacity of vulnerable and food insecure populations in Lesotho", implemented by WFP.

⁵ Project "Building adaptive capacity through food and nutrition security and peacebuilding actions in vulnerable Afro and indigenous communities in the Colombia-Ecuador border area", implemented by WFP.

⁶ Project "Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in the Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in changing climate", implemented by UNESCO.

Box 9: Examples of Implementation arrangements for GP compliance

At IE level

- Conducting a gender audit to ensure compliance with AF GP⁷
- Appointment of a Gender focal point to finalize the gender mainstreaming guidelines to support the mainstreaming of gender in all the components of the project⁸
- Recruitment of female staff to foster female participation in the project⁹
- Appointment of a Gender Specialist at IE¹⁰
- Communication and training from IE to EE regarding AF GP¹¹
- Development of a Gender Action Plan¹²

At EE level

- Setting quotas to ensure female participation and involvement in decision-making at the project's community-level committees¹³.
- Workshops with beneficiaries to present policy on SEAH¹⁴
- Female employees participating directly in consultation and project activities¹⁵
- Additional technical expertise in gender recruited for the EE¹⁶

3.2.3 Capacity gaps affecting GP compliance

Only 8% of PPRs have reported that they identified capacity gaps that hinder compliance with the GP, however, only a few specified what the capacity gaps or to what extent they were related. Further specification on capacity gaps affecting GP compliance is recommended to be included in the PPR.

The Fund provides Technical Assistance (TA) Grants as part of the Readiness Program. These grants provide financial resources for IE to enhance their capacity to comply with the AF GP. There are two distinct TA Grants: one for both the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP), and another solely for the GP.

Box 10: Identified Gender-related capacity gaps

- Language/communication barriers to engage with beneficiaries: "The Awapit language barrier, mainly in the case of older women who do not speak Spanish. To overcome this, materials have been translated into Awapit (such as those related to the WFC). In addition, by incorporating local people, this communication is facilitated, since among the Awá implementing entities, it

⁷ Project "Integrated Water and Soil Resources Management Project", implemented by IFAD in Djibouti.

⁸ Project "Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project (RICAR)", implemented by WFP.

⁹ Project "Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change", implemented by MOPIC in Jordan.

¹⁰ Project "Scaling up climate-smart agriculture in East Guinea-Bissau", implemented by BOAD.

¹¹ Project "Enhance community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity, caused by floods and droughts in Rawalpindi and Nowshera, Pakistan", implemented by UN HABITAT.

¹² Project "Economic, Social and Solidarity Insertion for Resilience in the Governorate of Kairouan - IESS-Adapt", implemented by IFAD in Tunisia.

¹³ Project "Building climate and disaster resilience capacities of vulnerable small towns in Lao PDR", implemented by UN Habitat in Lao.

¹⁴ Project "Reducing climate vulnerability and flood risk in coastal urban and semi urban areas in cities in Latin America" in Colombia and Ecuador, implemented by CAF.

¹⁵ Project "Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change", implemented by MOPIC in Jordan.

¹⁶ Project "Economic, Social and Solidarity Insertion for Resilience in the Governorate of Kairouan - IESS-Adapt", implemented by IFAD in Tunisia.

was established as a criterion that the people who make up the local teams should speak Awapit. However, in many cases, it is the men who speak both languages”¹⁷.

- Low female participation in the project: “challenge of women participation in project activities are being addressed through planning, advocacy, communication, motivation and effective coordination”¹⁸; “the programme has therefore planned to deploy a gender specialist to assist the implementation and engage youth and women groups to be involved in any”¹⁹.

3.2.4 Gender-responsive interventions

25% of PPR reported having completed gender-responsive interventions. However, this indicator has been challenging to measure. The PPR template does not include this question explicitly, but more implicitly (see GP section, subsection 1 - Quality at entry, the question “List the gender-responsive elements that were incorporated in the project/programme results framework”, as well as in the Rating section). In order to capture more sufficient and relevant information about the gender-responsive interventions and activities the IE are implementing and/or have implemented, the PPR template is recommended to be updated to allow more continuous reporting on gender activities outlined in the proposals.

Box 11: Examples of Gender-responsive interventions

- Construction of dikes to prevent inundation and ensure women’s access to freshwater²⁰
- Women received loans and financial support (50% of beneficiaries), as well as other vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities (7%) and elderly (38%)²¹
- Development of courses, protocols and guidance to mainstream gender within the project²².
- Capacity building and training for women on income-generating activities²³ and food preservation/nutrition²⁴.
- Development of a gender diagnosis to support municipalities with disaster reduction systems²⁵.

¹⁷ Project “Building adaptive capacity through food and nutrition security and peacebuilding actions in vulnerable Afro and indigenous communities in the Colombia-Ecuador border area”, implemented by WFP in Colombia and Ecuador.

¹⁸ Project “Enhance community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity, caused by floods and droughts in Rawalpindi and Nowshera, Pakistan”, implemented by UN HABITAT.

¹⁹ Project “Safekeeping-Surviving-Sustaining towards Resilience: 3S Approach to Build Coastal City Resilience to Climate Change Impacts and Natural Disasters in Pekalongan City, Central Java Province”, implemented by Kemitran.

²⁰ Project “Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of Coastal Communities of Zanzibar”, implemented by NEMC in Tanzania.

²¹ Project “An integrated approach to physical adaptation and community resilience in Antigua and Barbuda’s Northwest McKinnon’s watershed”, implemented by ABED in Antigua y Barbuda.

²² Project “Building adaptive capacity through food and nutrition security and peacebuilding actions in vulnerable Afro and indigenous communities in the Colombia-Ecuador border area”, implemented by WFP in Colombia and Ecuador.

²³ Project “Integrated Water and Soil Resources Management Project”, implemented by IFAD in Djibouti.

²⁴ Project “Improving Adaptive Capacity of vulnerable and food insecure populations in Lesotho”, implemented by WFP in Lesotho.

²⁵ Project “Ecosystem-Based Adaptation at Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa”, implemented by UNDP.

- Shelter facility guidance to make specific accommodations for persons with disabilities, the elderly, women and children²⁶.
- Advisory services for mothers and pregnant women on health and nutrition²⁷.

3.2.5 Lessons learned

The PPR template has a “Lessons Learned” section that requires IE to address how gender considerations were integrated during the reporting period and what lessons were learned from incorporating these considerations into project performance or impacts. Only 25% of PPR reported lessons learned related to the process of gender mainstreaming in their projects.

Box 12: Lessons learned from gender mainstreaming

- “Gender considerations have been applied by encouraging EE and government partners to promote the attendance of female representatives in meetings. However, it remains a challenge to engage women at the sub-national government level, for example, due to a lack of female staff”²⁸.
- “It is important to challenge and address women’s participation in project activities through planning, advocacy, communication, motivation and effective coordination”²⁹
- “At the beginning of implementing the project's intervention with communities, it was noticed that community members had little trust in electing women to leadership positions. However, the project sensitized communities and challenged the stereotypes around the roles and responsibilities of men and women, which improved women's representation in leadership positions”³⁰.
- “During the focus groups conducted in the context of the baseline study, participants were divided by gender and community groups, to ensure that all the participants could express their views and needs freely and safely. This arrangement, and the partnership with local translators who could facilitate participants' expression in their local languages, allowed them to share their views on the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods, and explain their level of access to climate information to plan their agrosilvopastoral activities”³¹
- “The original selection criteria used to identify the direct beneficiaries to be recruited by the NGOs made a provision for at least one-third of them being women and preference to women-headed households”³².

²⁶ Project “An integrated approach to physical adaptation and community resilience in Antigua and Barbuda's Northwest McKinnon's watershed”, implemented by ABED in Antigua y Barbuda.

²⁷ Project “Integrated Water and Soil Resources Management Project”, implemented by IFAD in Djibouti.

²⁸ Project “Building climate and disaster resilience capacities of vulnerable small towns in Lao PDR”, implemented by UN Habitat in Lao.

²⁹ Project “Enhance community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity, caused by floods and droughts in Rawalpindi and Nowshera, Pakistan”, implemented UN Habitat in Pakistan.

³⁰ Project “Improving Adaptive Capacity of vulnerable and food insecure populations in Lesotho”, implemented by WFP in Lesotho.

³¹ Project “Building adaptive capacity to climate change in vulnerable communities living in the Congo River Basin”, implemented by WFP.

³² Project “Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future”, implemented by UNDP.

3.2.6 Grievances received related to gender equality

As mentioned previously, all AF-funded projects are required to have a grievance mechanism in place to review and address gender-related complaints (para. 23 AF GP). Only 6% of PPRs reported having received complaints through the grievance mechanism related to gender equality.

Box 13: Gender-related grievances reported

- Lack of payment to workers, including women³³
- Lack of hiring local women for subprojects³⁴

4. CONCLUSIONS

The pilot implementation of the GSC found notable improvement in the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in the AF proposals at the first submission (before they go under the secretariat's technical review). Most CN and FP included gender analysis early on, highlighting a commitment to gender considerations. Gender-responsive indicators and interventions were featured in most FP, addressing the needs of women and girls. This supports the AF's mandate to promote gender equality and ensure equal participation and benefits for all genders in project interventions.

The CN and FP showed a comprehensive approach to identifying gender-related risks, demonstrating an understanding of gender impacts and IE's commitment to mitigating these risks. Grievance mechanisms in FP highlight efforts to address gender-related concerns and ensure marginalized groups can seek redress. Most FP conducted gender-inclusive stakeholder consultations, which informed their proposals, and broader consultations could further improve the effectiveness of gender-responsive strategies. While the CN and FP align well with the Fund's GP, there is room for improvement such as collecting and reporting gender statistics and applying intersectionality as appropriate in proposal development.

Regarding quality during implementation, the GSC implementation for FY24 helped identify and collect relevant data on challenges to AF GP compliance, gender-responsive interventions, and lessons learned. This information will contribute to strengthening and tailor AF's support for IE in addressing gender gaps in Fund-supported projects. However, data included in gender-related sections of PPR is often limited, and therefore, it would benefit from updating the gender section of the PPR template and/or developing a guideline on gender reporting in the PPR, with a view to encouraging IE to report more comprehensively on gender mainstreaming activities, progress, challenges and lessons based on the implementation of gender action plan included in the approved funding proposal. This would enable the GSC to produce a more complete picture of the AF portfolio's gender-responsiveness.

³³ Project "Improving Adaptive Capacity of vulnerable and food insecure populations in Lesotho", implemented by WFP in Lesotho.

³⁴ Project "Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-eastern Africa", implemented by UN Habitat in Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique.

About a fifth of the reviewed PPR reported gender-related challenges during implementation, citing internal factors like lack of female staff and gender knowledge, and external factors such as limited understanding of gender equality in communities and negative social norms. Most of PPRs reported that IE and EE have implemented arrangements to comply with the AF GP, such as recruiting women for project staff, training EE on AF GP requirements, and setting quotas for female beneficiaries. However, only a small percentage of PPR reported gender-related capacity gaps, mainly related to language barriers and low engagement of women beneficiaries. Half of the PPR reported gender-responsive interventions were completed, including income-generating training for women, providing loans, investing in infrastructure to improve women's access to services, and developing courses and toolkits to promote gender equality.

Although only a quarter of PPR reported on lessons learned related to gender equality, emphasizing the need for gender-balanced teams with sufficient knowledge on gender issues; need to invest in capacity building both at an institutional level and at the community level to underline the importance of gender equality; awareness raising that promoting gender equality takes considerable time and iterative effort. Furthermore, only two PPR reported having received grievances related to gender equality and women's empowerment. They were related to the lack of payment to workers, including women and the lack of hiring local women for subprojects.

In overall, MIE provided more specific and detailed information on their gender-responsive approach in the project proposals and PPRs compared to RIE and NIE. This could be due to the already existing mechanisms, capacities, resources and knowledge in those organizations. In terms of the result of the GSC 'quality during implementation,' as mentioned above, due to the limited data, the numbers may provide only a partial picture of gender-responsive implementation. However, the findings offer insights into potential improvements on how IE could improve its reporting on gender-responsive implementation of the AF supported project.