



# Feminist climate policy

For resilient societies and a gender-just social-ecological transformation

## RECOGNISING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AS A SOCIETAL CHALLENGE

**Climate change** already has devastating effects on people and is **exacerbating existing inequalities**. People who are disadvantaged because of their gender, age, income or race are disproportionately affected. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is pursuing a **feminist development policy** that is aimed at **overcoming discriminatory power structures**. Women and marginalised groups in all their diversity should benefit from climate action on an equal footing, and be able to play an active part in determining climate policies. This is the only way to make societies more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS

The facts speak for themselves: in 2021, at least four million girls in low-income and middle-income countries missed out on completing their education due to climate-related natural disasters. People with disabilities are at a disproportionately high risk of dying in a disaster. Often, they have **no access to the resources needed** to recover from a crisis. Disasters also reinforce the marginalisation of LGBTIQ+ persons. They often experience discrimination with regard to access to water, food, healthcare, and emergency shelter.

→ The BMZ therefore provides targeted support to gender-transformative approaches in climate policy and finance, for example under the **Global Shield against Climate Risks**. The Shield's purpose is to provide financial protection against the impacts of extreme weather events for particularly affected people. The BMZ is also advocating for a stronger gender-transformative<sup>1</sup> approach in multilateral climate funds.

## MAKING THE TRANSITION GENDER JUST

The term “just transition” refers to making economies environmentally sound, equitable and climate friendly, thus moving towards more equitable and sustainable societies. This transition offers a lot of opportunities if it **includes all people on an equal footing**.

→ Through its **Climate and Development Partnerships**, the German government supports its partner countries in achieving a social-ecological, gender-just transformation. As part of the dialogue with civil society organisations, the Partnerships also engage with local women's organisations.

The **renewable energy** sector offers great potential for a gender-just transformation. However, the share of women full-time employees in renewable energy is only 32 per cent. For a just energy transition, equal access to energy must be improved and women's knowledge and perspectives need to be taken on board.

→ The multi-donor **Energising Development** partnership pursues a gender-transformative approach. In 20 partner countries, the BMZ's support targets women – as energy consumers with equal rights, as entrepreneurs, and as stakeholders.

The transport sector, too, plays a key role for the just transition. Most social and physical **infrastructure** in urban and rural areas is **not responsive to the daily needs of women and marginalised groups**.

→ The BMZ has created the **Women Mobilize Women** platform for transport sector decision-makers and thought leaders in order to strengthen gender-transformative approaches in the sector.

<sup>1</sup> “Gender-transformative” means addressing the root causes of gender inequality in a targeted manner in order to transform discriminatory norms and practices and overcome existing gender prejudices.

The climate crisis is **increasing the care workload**. Worldwide, three quarters of all unpaid care work and two thirds of all paid care work is done by women and girls. Their workload is increasing as a result of health challenges, food insecurity and water shortages caused by climate change.

- The BMZ is working for the recognition, reduction and redistribution of care work, for instance as a member of the [Global Alliance for Care](#) and through the World Bank's [Invest in Childcare](#).

## SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE PROVIDERS

In sub-Saharan Africa, two thirds of employed women work in the agricultural and food sector. In South Asia, that share is over 70 per cent. **This means that women have important knowledge, but often they do not have equal access to means of production, and their rights to land, water and other natural resources are often very limited.**

- In various regions, the BMZ is working to strengthen the land and resource rights of women and marginalised groups, for example as part of the [Stand for Her Land Campaign](#).

**Indigenous women** in particular, with their knowledge about nature and the land, are **key providers of knowledge for equitable environmental, water and climate solutions** and for the conservation, restoration and **sustainable use of biodiversity**.

- The BMZ is providing targeted support to the efforts of Indigenous Peoples' self-advocacy organisations to unfold their transformative potential so they can play an active role in important decision-making processes and assert their rights. In Colombia, the BMZ supports the *Women Changing Their World* project run by UN Women, which is geared towards empowering and protecting environmental activists.

## FACILITATING PARTICIPATION

Women need to be able to participate, on an equal footing, in local, national and international political decision-making. At the 2022 UN climate conference, only 20 per cent of all delegations were headed by a woman.

- With support from the BMZ, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF International) provides support to civil society organisations so they can effectively engage in gender-transformative climate action and achieve an increase in the **representation of women in central decision-making bodies**.
- The BMZ Youth Advisory Council has the purpose of making young people's perspectives and concerns heard in climate action and environmental protection.

## JOINT EFFORTS TO MAKE PROGRESS ON GOALS

Climate policy is about justice. It is also an important part of the BMZ's new Gender Action Plan. A feminist climate policy encourages all people to jointly tackle the challenges of the climate crisis and to work towards a liveable future for all.

