

GENDER IN SGP

EMPOWERING WOMEN AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL



Many projects supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) have been recognized for **successfully promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women**.

The reason for this high level of success is that gender is one of the **main criteria considered for the approval of grants**.



MAIN FEATURES OF THE SGP IN GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- Promote **mainstreaming of gender at the earliest stages of the project cycle**. Men and women participate in the initial stages of project conception, approval and implementation.
- Needs assessment is done at the project development phase and is used to **define the roles of women and men early in the project**. This helps minimize conflict among different stakeholders during and after the project cycle with respect to roles in project activities and sharing of project benefits.
- **Document the contribution of women** to project activities in key areas where women already figure prominently (e.g., biodiversity management, in situ conservation of agrobiodiversity, conservation of medicinal plants, etc.). This contributes significantly to enhanced integration of gender considerations in current and future projects.
- **SGP National Steering Committees employ checklists and criteria to assess and screen projects for how they mainstream gender**. Moreover, some SGP countries have developed gender guidelines to mainstream gender into the project cycle.
- SGP's **demand-driven approach** at the local level increases the likelihood of receiving proposals from women and marginalized groups.
- SGP holds **"proposal writing workshops" and accept project proposals in local languages**, and even in oral formats through participatory video proposals. Thus encouraging maximum participation by marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women and youth.
- SGP encourages **women stand-alone projects** in line with the GEF focal areas.
- Grantees are encouraged to participate in the **global peer-learning network**.
- Field evaluation, including monitoring and evaluation and participatory appraisals, incorporates **gender-based indicators** to track the status of gender mainstreaming in projects.
- **Gender-focused training and sensitization workshops are provided** for National Coordinators at the regional level and for grantees at the national level.
- National Steering Committees—a voluntary body that makes all decisions on grant making—are required to **include a gender specialist**.
- National Coordinators **performance is explicitly assessed** with respect to results achieved in promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.



"As women, we are playing an important role in the development of our community."
-Nazaría Dixon,
CBO grantee
Nicaragua

