

## FP032 - Enhancing Women and Girls Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in Bangladesh

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*CSO comments on the project given as intervention during the 15<sup>th</sup> GCF Board Meeting, December 2016*

1. We very much concerned that questions are being raised whether this project submitted is a climate project or a development project. We believe it is unrealistic and artificial to strictly separate and dichotomize sustainable development programs and climate programs. Listening to the points by Board members who are not convinced this is an adaptation project – we urge the GCF Board to come out with a paper that explains more clearly what it considers as adaptation.
2. We firmly believe that this project is definitely about building climate resilience and represent vital climate change adaptation interventions.
  - a. Adequate access to freshwater is hampered by conditions of extreme poverty. But access to freshwater is coastal communities is significantly further undermined by the impacts of climate change. In this case, freshwater access is vital and central to the adaptation agenda.
  - b. Expanding and making available alternative livelihood options that contribute to increased women’s resources and family incomes clearly lead to greater resilience in dealing with climate change impacts.
  - c. Adapting and “climate proofing” social safety net programs is vital so that they will be more effective and sustainable in the face of climate change impacts, has significant potential for shifting towards a climate resilient development pathway.
3. While additional details should be provided and improvements can be made in design and, we very much welcome the submission of this project. It is the first project submitted to the GCF that focuses explicitly on addressing the needs of women and girls. Delivering support to increase women’s resilience is a key opportunity for the GCF to distinguish itself in the landscape of climate finance providers.
4. It is also the first project where a governmental institution dedicated to and led by women is in the driver’s seat. Women’s agency and leadership climate responses, and in particular in sustainable natural resource management, is critical but often unrecognized. This project will contribute to the narrative of GCF as a transformative fund and its clear mandate to be gender responsive and gender sensitive.
5. Further, our members on the ground in Bangladesh confirm that CSOs were involved in consultation processes on this project.
6. We note that many of the GCF projects that have been considered and approved thus far, also need improvements. We find it difficult to understand why many of the Board members are being especially hard on this one.

**Note:** *There was no consensus in GCF board in accepting proposal, hence it was not approved.*