



# Gender Transformative Climate Change Action in the Pacific

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# Overview of the presentation

1. The research + this peer review process
2. Key conceptual understandings of gender transformation and climate change
3. Enablers of gender transformative climate change action in the Pacific
4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change action
5. What next?

# 1. The research + this peer review process



- Commissioned by Plan International Australia (PIA)
- Carried out by Institute for Sustainable Futures University of Technology Sydney
  - Literature review
  - Primary research in Fiji and Solomon Islands (May 2018) with national level stakeholders and village level case studies of past climate change action
- Research findings and guidance framework in draft – currently being reviewed by PIA
- **This presentation is part of the peer review process**



# 1. The research + this peer review process

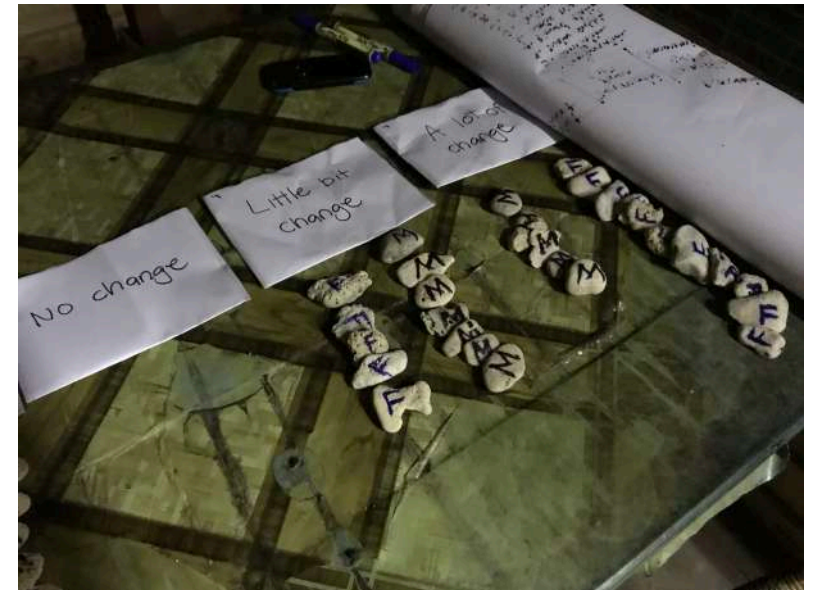


The objective of the research was...

*“to define what gender transformative climate action looks like, in order to inform future program design of Plan’s climate resilience projects that aim to be gender transformative”, in the Pacific and elsewhere”*

The research sought to inform the development of...

*“a framework or model for PIAs’ gender transformative climate change programming”*





## 2. Key conceptual understandings...



### Gender transformative approach

*“tackle the root causes of gender inequality, particularly unequal gender power relations, discriminatory social norms and legislation, in all our work. In this way we aim not only to improve the daily condition of girls but also to advance their position and value in society”*

(Plan International Global Policy – Gender Equality and Inclusion, 2017, p.4)





## 2. Key conceptual understandings...

### Continuum of gender-responsive approaches

Whilst the research objective was to identify dimensions of gender transformative climate change programming, a broad perspective was taken to capture lessons learned from a continuum of gender-responsive programming (Vunisea & Peniamina. 2015).

Gender blind	Gender sensitive	Gender specific	Gender transformative
Projects that create, exacerbate or ignore gender inequalities in pursuit of project goals	Projects that maintain existing gender dynamics and roles in pursuit of project goals	Projects that support and improve outcomes for a specific gender group in pursuit of project goals	Projects that actively reduce gender inequalities to enhance achievement of project goals



## 2. Key conceptual understandings...



### Practical and strategic needs

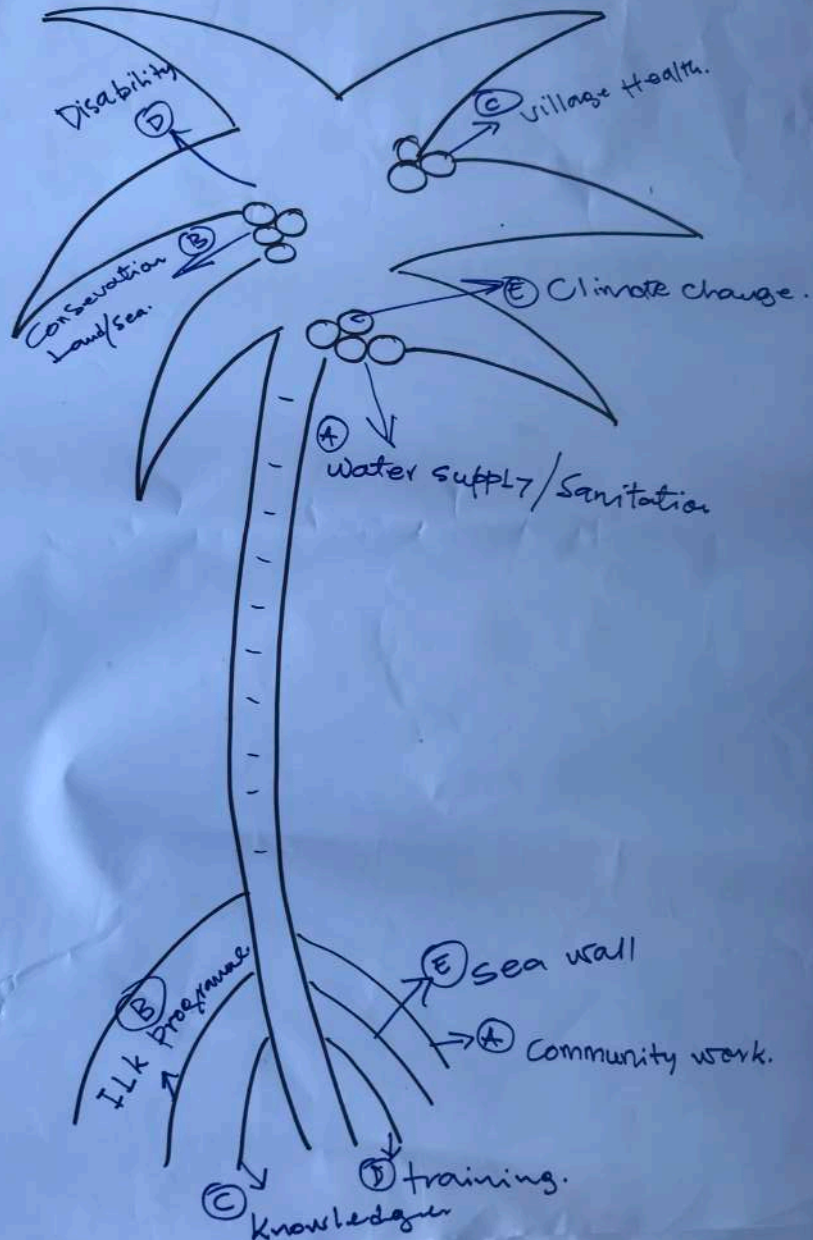
- practical needs of women (short-term material needs mainly arising from and reinforcing women's reproductive and productive roles)
- strategic needs of women (long-term needs arising from women's subordinate position, leading to transformation of gendered division of labour and increasing community leadership roles).

Advancing strategic gender interests leads to changes in existing roles for more equitable decision making and control of resources.

The Moser Framework (1993)



Group 2.



## 2. Key conceptual understandings...

### Climate change



- Climate change adaptation - actions taken to reduce the vulnerability of communities and their environments to climate change (informed by the CC-CBA and 4CA projects).
- Climate justice - recognising that those who are least responsible for the causes of climate change are those most at risk to its consequences.
- Climate change advocacy - teaching others about climate change or advocating action for mitigation and adaptation and receptiveness of decision-makers to this advocacy.
- Child-centred - advocacy for climate change action by children and young people



# 3. Enablers of gender transformative climate change action in the Pacific

The research identified multiple sets of enablers in the Pacific which provide the foundation for gender transformative climate change action



## Action and relationships at the village level:

Multiple spaces for participation to support gender transformation in climate change action

- Side-by-side (men and women together)
- Women's dialogue and empowerment
- Male champions
- Girls and boys as models of gender transformation



# 3. Enablers of gender transformative climate change action in the Pacific



- Government policy and institutions:
  - Mandate for action from existing laws, policies and plans
  - Potential to leverage government policy for strengthened implementation at village level
  - Where needed influence integration of climate change and gender and social inclusion

# 3. Enablers of gender transformative climate change action in the Pacific



- Programming approaches:
  - Engage in cross sector action
  - Be informed by local gender-focused organisations
  - Promote action by demonstration – *‘seeing is believing’*
  - Meet practical needs as potential to strategic needs for women – **be cautious not to reinforce existing gender norms ‘i.e. women’s issues’**
  - Build from and strengthen existing gender aware and gender focused programming



## 4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change action



# 4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change action



## Pre-conditions for action

- Organisational commitments of Plan and Partners
- Strengthen staff competency
- Recognise and support local social movements for change
- Contribute to national government mandates
- Contextualise to country and local cultures and co-design for action

# 4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change action

**Multiple spaces for  
inclusive active  
and connected  
participation**

- In community
  - Women together
  - Women and men side by side
  - Girls and boys as models of transformation
- With government at multiple levels
- With civil society and the private sector





# 4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change action



Community-led  
action-learning  
pathways for  
climate change  
action and gender  
transformation

Community-led action-learning pathways for climate change action and gender transformation

- Community-led
- Action-learning
- Pathways

# 4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change action

Community-led  
action-learning  
pathways for  
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transformation



## **Community-led**

- Inclusive process of different groups in community and with outside stakeholders
- Encourages inputs of diverse knowledges
- Enables knowledge exchange – within a community itself and also external with expertise of CSO/government (especially in relation to climate change)
- Recognise contested values within communities themselves and also with external stakeholders

## **Action-learning**

- Learning-action-learning are part of same process (assessment, planning, action, monitoring, review, evaluations are not separate)
- Focus is on community-led reflection
- Focus on supporting process of action-learning (plan-do-reflect) not on achieving set outcomes
- Enables adaptation and response to changing conditions and uncertainty

## **Pathways**

- Assessment of climate change vulnerability and capacity + analysis of gender
- Community defined strategic visions for climate change action and gender equality
- Incremental and transformational actions (experimental actions) + work at multiple scales – local and systemic
- Monitoring / decision triggers / monitoring / feedback
- Decision-making which is flexible and responsive to changing contexts

## 4. Dimensions of gender transformative climate change



Locally defined  
outcomes and  
stepping stones to  
climate change  
adaptation and  
gender  
transformation

Whilst gender transformative climate change action is outcomes orientated – we can't define these outcomes as they will be set by communities themselves as part of cycles of learning – action – learning.

We can conceive of outcomes in relation to different domains of change linked to transformational change:

*Improved daily condition of women and girls*

*Advanced position and value in society as defined through social norms and legislation*





## 5. Next steps



Peer review (Pacific Update 2018, PIA and Partner review)...

Pilot the guidance framework for gender transformative climate change in the Pacific with PIA and Partners

*Learning Action Learning*

# Thank you



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