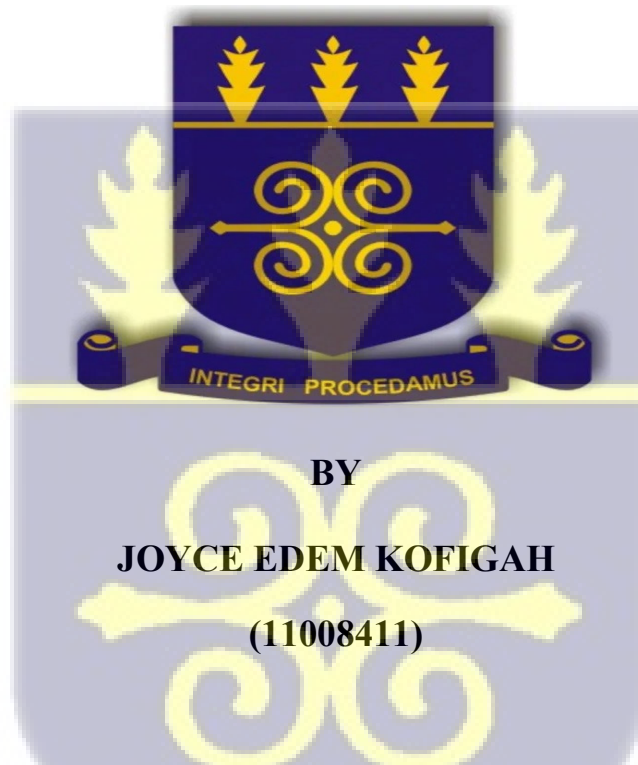


UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON.

INTA 600: DISSERTATION

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN STRATEGIES AND POLICIES
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE. THE CASE OF GHANA.**



BY

JOYCE EDEM KOFIGAH


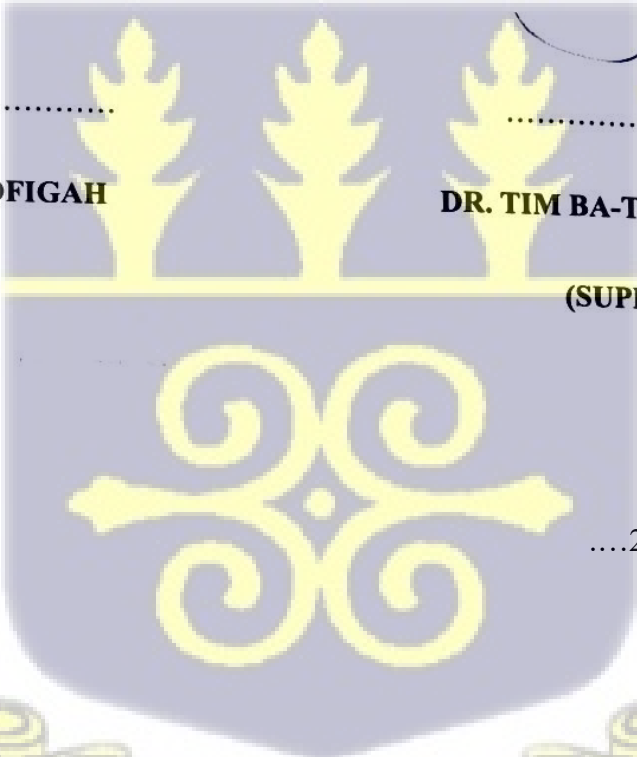
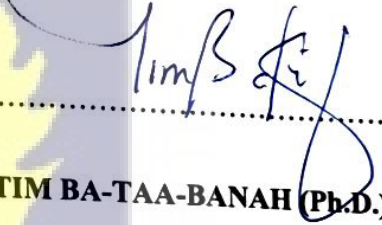

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**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
GHANA, LEGON, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEGREE**

NOVEMBER 2024

DECLARATION

I, **JOYCE EDEM KOFIGAH**, do hereby declare that this project work is the result of my own original research under the supervision of Dr. Tim Ba-Taa-Banah and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in any University or has been published or submitted anywhere else for any other purpose. However, all sources of materials borrowed have been duly acknowledged.

		
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DATE		DATE
		

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family for their wonderful support. Your unwavering support, love, and encouragement have been my strength throughout this journey.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I give all glory and thanks to Almighty God for His guidance, grace, and the strength to complete this work. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, Dr. Tim Ba-Taa-Banah, for his invaluable guidance, mentorship, and support throughout this research process. His expertise, criticisms and patience were key to the success of this work.

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In addition, I could not have finished this dissertation without the encouragement of my family, friends, and colleagues. I am extremely thankful.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGN	African Group of Negotiators
AMCEN	African Ministerial Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources
AR4 Fourth	Assessment Report 4
AR5 Fifth	Assessment Report 5
AR6 Sixth	Assessment Report 6
AU	African Union
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Clim-DevAfrica	Climate for Development in Africa
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EAR	Environmental Assessment Regulations
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCCAP	Gender and Climate Change Action Plan
GCCN	Gender and Climate Change Network
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGCA	Global Gender and Climate Alliance
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda

INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IR	International Relations
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MESTI	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCs	National Communications
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGP	National Gender Policy
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals



UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organization



ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the integration of gender perspectives into climate change policies in Ghana, focusing on the challenges and opportunities for gender mainstreaming within national climate strategies. The study used a qualitative methodology, evaluating key documents such as the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS), Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (GH-NDCs), and various international agreements Ghana is a signatory to, including the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol. Despite the growing recognition of gender's role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, the research reveals that while gender-responsive policies are acknowledged, practical implementation remains inconsistent. The study highlights the critical role of women, especially in rural areas, who are disproportionately affected by climate change due to their social roles in agriculture, water collection, and household resource management. Key challenges to effective gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies include cultural norms, insufficient political will, lack of gender-disaggregated data, limited financial resources, and weak institutional frameworks. However, there are significant opportunities for advancing gender equality through targeted capacity-building programs, improved access to resources and climate financing for women, and the strengthening of institutional collaboration between gender and climate-related agencies. One key recommendation the study found was to increase the number of women leaders involved in developing climate policies so that they can better integrate women's perspectives and ensure that gender-responsive measures are fully implemented in policy strategies. The thesis concludes that while progress has been made, further efforts are needed to ensure that gender-sensitive strategies are fully implemented, empowering women to take on leadership roles in climate governance and adaptation efforts. Addressing these barriers will be crucial for building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable climate future in Ghana.

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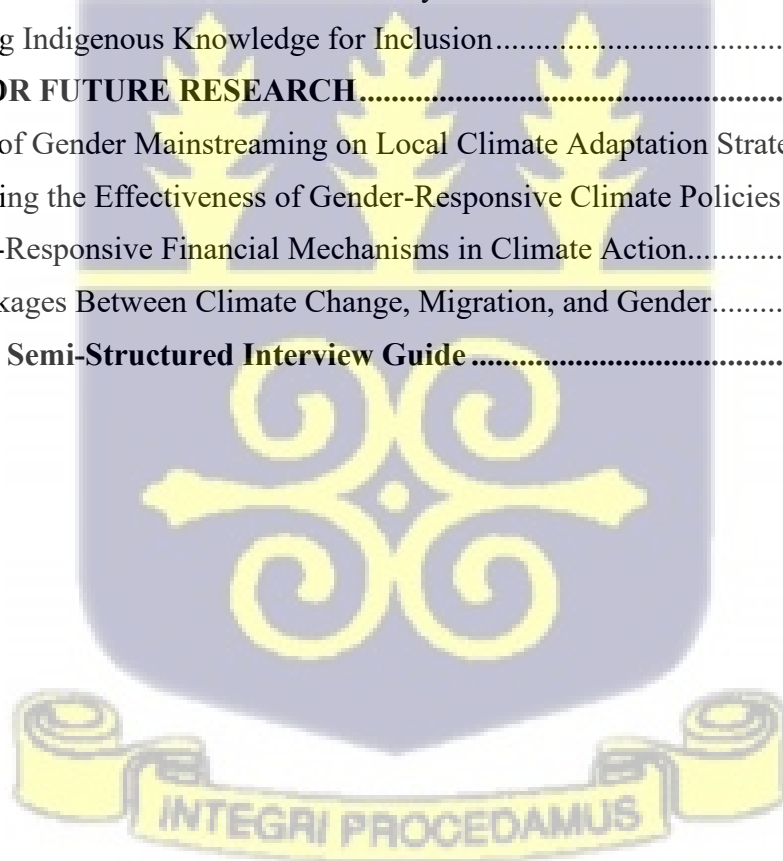
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND STUDY

With wide-ranging effects on ecosystems, economies, and societies, climate change is a critical global issue that disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, especially women (Bonnot et al., 2018). Defined as long-term changes in global temperatures and weather patterns, primarily caused by human activity, climate change is driven by greenhouse gas emissions from industrial activities, deforestation, and fossil fuel use (IPCC, 2021). These changes threaten food security, water availability, public health, and economic stability through rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss (NASA, 2022; WHO, 2021).

Marginalized communities, particularly in developing regions, face the highest risks. In Ghana, climate change is manifested in rising sea levels, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and increasing temperatures conditions that endanger livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, and water resource management (Ghana Ministry of Environment, 2020). The effects are not experienced equally across gender lines. For example, women in Ghana, who comprise the majority of smallholder farmers and are primarily responsible for water and energy collection, are disproportionately affected when resources become scarce or ecosystems are degraded (Osei et al., 2020). Climate-related disruptions often increase their workload and limit their capacity to respond due to restricted access to land, credit, education, and decision-making spaces (Agarwal, 2010).

Men, on the other hand, are more likely to migrate in search of alternative livelihoods when environmental shocks hit, leaving women with the dual responsibility of household and

economic management in increasingly fragile environments (Schmidt et al., 2019). This gender-differentiated vulnerability underscores the importance of integrating gender perspectives through gender mainstreaming into climate change strategies and policies.

Gender mainstreaming refers to the systematic inclusion of gender perspectives into all stages of policy development, planning, and implementation. It recognizes that women and men experience climate impacts differently and that equitable access to resources and decision-making enhances climate resilience (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). Evidence shows that gender-responsive climate strategies not only promote social justice but also improve the effectiveness of interventions by leveraging women's local knowledge in adaptation and sustainable resource management (Tobin, 2019; UN Women, 2014).

Globally, efforts to address climate change through the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and the Gender Action Plan emphasize the integration of gender equality in climate governance (UNFCCC, 2015; UN Women, 2014). Regionally, frameworks such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Adaptation Initiative promote gender-inclusive resilience-building (African Union, 2019).

Ghana has developed several policy instruments to tackle climate change, including the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). These documents emphasize climate resilience in key sectors such as agriculture, water, and health. While they acknowledge the need for inclusive strategies, the extent of gender integration varies across them. For instance, the NCCP mentions gender as a cross-cutting issue, but implementation frameworks often lack clear gender-responsive indicators or dedicated budget lines (Ghana EPA, 2015; Osei et al., 2020). This raises concerns about the translation of policy intent into action, particularly at local levels where women are most affected by climate variability. Therefore, examining the

gap between policy rhetoric and practice is essential to improving climate responses in Ghana.

Recent national developments, such as the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Bill in 2024, reflect Ghana's commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Yet, this legal progress has not fully translated into mainstreamed climate policy. Bridging the gap between policy commitments and lived realities requires a deeper understanding of how gender has been incorporated into climate strategies, what barriers persist, and how policy and practice can be improved.

Against this backdrop, this study investigates the extent to which gender mainstreaming is integrated into Ghana's national climate change strategies and policies. It explores the key challenges and institutional barriers that hinder effective implementation and proposes actionable recommendations for promoting inclusive, equitable, and resilient climate responses.

1.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Globally, climate change is an imminent threat to sustainable development since it disproportionately affects women and other vulnerable groups. Women in Ghana are more vulnerable to hazards brought on by climate change as a result of gender differences in decision-making, resource availability, and adaptation strategies (Denton, 2002). Gender issues are frequently not sufficiently incorporated into national strategies and programs that attempt to address climate change. This lack of gender mainstreaming can undermine the effectiveness of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, leaving key segments of the population underserved (Arora-Jonsson, 2011).

Given that women, especially those living in rural areas, depend significantly on natural resources for their livelihoods and are disproportionately impacted by climate variability,

Ghana's climate policies may worsen already-existing disparities if a gender-responsive approach is not included (Dankelman, 2010). Therefore, it is imperative to evaluate the extent to which gender mainstreaming is handled in Ghana's climate change plans and policies, pointing out any shortcomings and suggesting changes that would increase both men's and women's resilience to climate-related difficulties.

Existing research has highlighted the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in global climate policy but remains limited in its focus on specific national contexts, such as Ghana (Skutsch, 2002). By critically analysing how much gender issues have been incorporated into Ghana's climate change plans and policies, this thesis seeks to close this gap.

By doing so, the study seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on gender equality and sustainable development, offering insights into how policy frameworks can be restructured to ensure inclusivity and equity in climate resilience efforts.

1.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. To what extent are gender considerations integrated into Ghana's national climate change strategies and policies?
2. What are the key challenges and barriers to effective gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts?
3. How can Ghana's climate change policies be improved to ensure more inclusive and equitable outcomes for both women and men, particularly in vulnerable communities?

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the extent to which gender mainstreaming has been incorporated into Ghana's national climate change strategies and policies.

2. To assess the challenges and barriers to the effective implementation of gender-sensitive approaches within Ghana's climate change policies.
3. To recommend strategies that improve the gender responsiveness of climate change policies in Ghana.

1.4 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

For climate measures to be fair, inclusive, and successful, gender mainstreaming in strategies and policies is essential. Due to their involvement in agriculture, water management, and household resilience all of which are significantly impacted by climate variability—women in Ghana, like many poor nations, are disproportionately impacted by climate change (Denton, 2002). Women's access to resources, technologies, and decision-making processes that are crucial for adaptation and mitigation efforts is restricted by the lack of complete integration of gender-sensitive approaches in many national climate change policies (Arora-Jonsson, 2011).

Addressing this gap is crucial because women possess unique knowledge and experiences that can enhance the success of climate interventions. Research shows that policies that include gender considerations are more likely to succeed in building community resilience and achieving sustainable development goals (Dankelman, 2010). However, in Ghana, there is limited empirical research on how gender mainstreaming is being operationalized in national climate strategies, and the effectiveness of these efforts remains unclear.

The present status of gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate change policies must thus be examined in this thesis. It seeks to shed light on the obstacles to successful gender inclusion and make suggestions for enhancing legislative frameworks. By promoting more equitable results for men and women and helping to close the gender gap in climate policy, the research will ensure that both are equipped to adapt to and lessen the effects of climate change.

Thus, the purpose of the paper is to close this gap by investigating the frequently disregarded relationship between gender and climate change utilising a variety of instruments and methodologies pertinent to the African setting, particularly Ghana. With a focus on adaptation and mitigation policies and practices, it draws attention to the important connections between gender inequality and climate change. The study also looks for gaps in the body of knowledge on gender and the environment, which has mostly concentrated on catastrophe risk reduction, women's access to natural resources, and agricultural livelihoods.

There is a substantial gap in the statistical infrastructure and documentation because of the dearth of data, best practice documentation, and information sharing platforms. As a result, this thesis aims to deepen the understanding of gender-differentiated climate impacts and examine how these have been integrated into climate policies and strategies, with the goal of informing policy planning and implementation in Ghana. In addition to outlining the necessary practical procedures to create more fair and successful climate change policies and initiatives, the thesis ends with recommendations for important areas of future research.

1.5 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for this study can be grounded in feminist theory and constructivism within the field of international relations (IR). These theories offer a comprehensive lens to analyse how gender norms and international norms influence climate policy formulation and implementation, especially within a national context like Ghana.

1.5.1 Feminist Theory in International Relations

Feminist theory in international relations emerged in the 1980s, with scholars such as Cynthia Enloe and Ann Tickner being key figures. Feminist theorists critiqued the male-dominated nature of traditional IR, arguing that the field largely ignored the experiences and contributions of women (Tickner, 1992).

Feminist IR theory focuses on how gender power dynamics shape international relations and policies, advocating for the inclusion of gender as a critical factor in global governance. It challenges the traditional, state-centric views of IR, emphasizing that issues like climate change, which disproportionately affect women, should be central to political discourse. It also examines how gender inequalities affect global issues, including security, economic development, and climate change adaptation (Enloe, 1989).

Feminist theory broadens the scope of IR by including issues of inequality, social justice, and representation, particularly regarding marginalized groups like women (True, 2008). It sheds light on how global and local policies can reinforce gender inequalities, making it a valuable tool for analyzing climate change strategies and gender mainstreaming. Feminist IR is sometimes criticized for its focus on identity politics, which some argue could limit its application in broader analyses of structural power and economics (Tickner, 2001). It can be fragmented, as different strands of feminism (liberal, radical, ecofeminism) offer varied perspectives, which might lead to a lack of cohesion in its application.

Feminist theory is relevant to this study as it offers a requirement for understanding the gendered nature of climate change policies in Ghana. It provides a framework for analysing why women, especially in rural communities, are often marginalized in climate policy decisions and how gender-sensitive approaches can address their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

1.5.2 Constructivism in International Relations

The dominance of liberalism and realism in IR gave rise to constructivism in the 1990s. According to academics like Nicholas Onuf and Alexander Wendt, the international system is influenced by ideas, identities, and conventions in addition to material power (Wendt, 1999).

According to constructivism, social norms, shared ideas, and beliefs shape world politics. It claims that these common understandings, rather than just material considerations, influence states' identities and goals (Onuf, 1989). It highlights how national policies and international behaviour are shaped by global ideals such as gender equality and climate change adaptation. Constructivists argue that norms and values, such as those around gender mainstreaming, can be institutionalized within global and national policy frameworks, shaping how states respond to climate change (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998).

Constructivism provides a robust framework for understanding how international norms, such as the promotion of gender equality through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), influence national policy-making processes. It allows for the analysis of how global gender norms are diffused, accepted, or contested within local contexts like Ghana.

Critics argue that constructivism can be overly idealistic, focusing on norms and ideas at the expense of material power and interests, especially in a developing country context where resource constraints might limit policy implementation (Checkel, 1998). It may struggle to explain cases where states or actors reject global norms, focusing instead on domestic or strategic interests that deviate from international expectations.

Constructivism is relevant for examining how global gender norms, such as those enshrined in international agreements like the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are integrated into Ghana's national climate policies. It helps explain the process through which gender mainstreaming becomes institutionalized within national climate frameworks.

1.5.3 Justification for the Use of the Theories

Both feminist theory and constructivism are integral to international relations because they offer alternative perspectives on global governance, focusing on ideas, identities, and norms rather than just state power and self-interest. Feminist theory challenges traditional IR by prioritizing gender and social inequalities in global issues like climate change (Tickner, 2001), while constructivism explains how shared ideas and norms influence state behavior and policy choices (Wendt, 1999). The international community has increasingly recognized the need for gender-sensitive climate policies, as seen in the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan and the SDGs' emphasis on gender equality (SDG 5). This study draws on these IR theories to explore how these global gender norms have shaped Ghana's national climate change strategies.

The combination of feminist theory and constructivism provides a robust framework for analyzing gender mainstreaming in climate change policies in Ghana. Feminist theory is justified because the thesis focuses on gender inequalities in climate strategies, making it essential to understand the marginalization of women in both the creation and implementation of these policies. Constructivism is justified because it helps explain how international gender norms and climate policies influence national strategies, offering insights into the diffusion of global norms within Ghana's policy framework. Together, these theories allow for a comprehensive analysis of how gender considerations are integrated into climate policies and the challenges of translating global commitments into local action.

1.6 LITERATURE REVIEW

As men and women feel the effects of climate change in different ways, the relationship between gender and climate change has drawn more attention worldwide. Gender-responsive climate action is crucial to ensuring equitable development and boosting resilience in Ghana,

where livelihoods are seriously threatened by climate change, especially in rural and agricultural communities.

The basic ideas of gender mainstreaming and climate change policies are examined in this literature study, along with how Ghana's climate change initiatives operationalise them. With an emphasis on gender-sensitive frameworks, institutional responses, and gender-specific implications of climate change, the paper also discusses the benefits and problems of incorporating gender into climate action and looks at Ghana's national policy advancements.

1.6.1 Operational Definitions

1.6.1.1 Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods." Climate change in Ghana is mainly driven by the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and sea-level rise, which have adverse effects on agriculture, water resources, and livelihoods.

1.6.1.2 Concept of Gender

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, and responsibilities assigned to men and women within a society. These gender roles play a crucial role in shaping how individuals experience and respond to climate change. In many developing countries, women are often more vulnerable due to their socio-economic position, limited access to resources, and unequal power dynamics. Gender inequalities in areas such as land ownership, education, technology, and financial resources impede women's ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change (UN Women, 2018). Furthermore, women's pivotal roles in agriculture, food

production, water collection, and caregiving position them as key agents of adaptation in the face of climate change (FAO, 2018).

1.6.1.3 Gender Mainstreaming

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (1997), gender mainstreaming is defined as "the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programs, in all areas and at all levels."

In the context of climate change, gender mainstreaming refers to integrating gender considerations into climate change policies, programs, and actions to ensure that both men and women benefit equally from climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

1.6.1.4 Gender-Responsive Climate Policies

Gender-responsive climate policies are policies that recognize and address the different impacts of climate change on men, women, and gender minorities, while promoting equality and inclusion. These policies ensure that climate actions consider gender roles, responsibilities, and access to resources, which may be shaped by societal structures, thus reducing gender disparities in adaptation and mitigation efforts.

1.6.1.5 Climate Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change refers to the process of adjusting social, economic, and environmental practices to minimize the negative effects of climate change. It involves actions that help communities adjust to the impacts of climate change, including changes in agricultural practices, infrastructure development, and capacity-building efforts.

1.6.1.6 Climate Mitigation

Efforts to minimise global warming by reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions are referred to as climate mitigation. Mitigation methods for Ghana often focus on promoting sustainable land-use practices, reducing deforestation, and implementing renewable energy sources.

1.6.2 Climate Change and Its Impact

The global impact of climate change has been far-reaching, affecting ecosystems, human health, food security, and economic systems. In developing countries, climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities due to heavy reliance on agriculture, limited infrastructure, and constrained adaptive capacities (IPCC, 2021). For Ghana, climate change poses significant risks, including unpredictable rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, droughts, and flooding. These environmental shifts disrupt agricultural production and water resources, which are central to the livelihoods of many Ghanaians, particularly women in rural areas (Amoako, 2019).

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Ghana are essential policy frameworks aimed at addressing the challenges posed by climate change. However, the integration of gender considerations into these frameworks remains underdeveloped, and the policies often overlook the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women (MESTI, 2015). Women in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to climate-related stressors since their livelihoods are mostly reliant on climate-sensitive industries like agriculture and water gathering. Yet, their roles in climate resilience and adaptation have not been sufficiently acknowledged in national policies.

1.6.3 Climate Change and Gender Dynamics

Carbon dioxide levels are currently 60% higher than they were in 1990, despite two decades of international pledges to sustainable development and the aim of keeping global warming to less than 1.5 or 2.0 degrees Celsius (Ylipaa et al., 2019). Ecosystems are already suffering irreparable harm from climate change, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in danger of being implemented (McNall, 2011).

Non-climatic causes and disparities brought about by unequal development contribute to varying degrees of vulnerability to climate change. Groups that are socially, economically, culturally, politically, or institutionally marginalised are more at risk as a result of these differences. Intersecting social processes that lead to disparities in exposure, income, and socioeconomic status are the cause of this increased vulnerability rather than a single issue. Discrimination on the basis of gender, class, ethnicity, age, or disability is an example of these social processes (Sforna, 2019).

Sea level rise, droughts, heat waves, storms, flooding, land degradation, food security, conflict, disease, and economic losses are only a few of the effects of climate change that are now widely understood (Rao et al., 2019). The Fourth (AR4), Fifth (AR5), and Sixth (AR6) IPCC Assessment Reports' conclusions have been improved by scientific research, especially with regard to the growing threat of drastic and irreversible changes brought on by high levels of global warming (IPCC, 2021).

No continent, nation, or territory is exempt from the effects of climate change. However, the consequences are not evenly felt by gender, socioeconomic category, or geographic location. According to the IPCC's 2007 Assessment Report, the poor are most impacted by climate change, and its effects differ according to gender, age, and class.

Because their roles, rights, and opportunities are influenced by gender norms and socioeconomic position, women are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change, according to gender-based vulnerabilities (Huyer et al., 2021; Makina et al., 2016). Due to their diverse roles, responsibilities, and access to resources, research indicates that men and women are impacted by climate change in various ways (Dankelman, 2010). Due to their greater reliance on natural resources and their involvement in industries like agriculture, water management, and energy that are directly impacted by climatic variability, women in

many developing nations are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change (UN Women, 2020). Denton (2002) asserts that institutional injustices, including restricted access to decision-making platforms, education, and credit, are the root cause of gendered vulnerabilities and impede women's capacity to adapt to climate change. Women rarely have the same possibilities as males because of social, cultural, political, and economic systems (Alston, 2014), which restricts their access to resources that are necessary for adaptation.

But women are more than just victims; they are change agents with special expertise. To guarantee that gender viewpoints are represented in climate action, it is essential to support and empower women's leadership in combating climate change and formulating policy. Climate policies might not work without this. Women's knowledge is extremely valuable for adaptation at the local level. For instance, women are knowledgeable about climate-appropriate crops, trees, wild edible plants, sowing seasons, multi-cropping, local crops, post-harvest processing, pest control, biofertilizer production, and seed selection and storage (Lane and McNaught, 2009; UNDP, 2013).

Therefore, gender justice must be promoted by effective climate policy in order to ensure fair treatment and alleviate systemic inequities. Instead of just including women in preexisting frameworks, climate initiatives should be based on an awareness of gender power dynamics from the beginning.

Since gender mainstreaming is a tactic for advancing and attaining gender equality, it turns out to be an appropriate option. In order to ensure that gender perspectives and the goal of gender equality are central to all activities, including policy development, research, advocacy/dialogue, legislation, resource allocation, and the planning, execution, and monitoring of programs and projects, it entails making women's and men's needs, concerns, and experiences an essential part of the process. According to Djoudi et al. (2016), gender

mainstreaming is a method and technique utilised to accomplish the aim of gender equality rather than an end in itself. According to Chowdhury et al. (2022), women, who make up the majority of the world's impoverished and are typically in charge of family nutrition and health, food production in the home, and the management of natural resources, are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Gender justice, which includes equal treatment of men and women, women's rights, full citizenship rights for women, and the recognition that social change is necessary for gender equality, must be embraced by effective and representative climate policy (UNDP, 2018). Because it takes into account the underlying disparities in the current system and advocates for a total overhaul rather than merely incorporating a gender component into already-existing climate change adaptation frameworks, it is especially beneficial in this context.

Gender integration in climate change policy should be based on an awareness of gender power dynamics from the beginning, rather than by include women in pre-established agreements and frameworks (Asher et al., 2011).

1.6.4 Global Perspectives on Gender Mainstreaming and Climate Change

Numerous international agreements and legal frameworks address the relationship between gender and climate change. One of the primary channels for advancing gender-responsive climate policies has been the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Adopted in 2017, the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP) seeks to ensure women's participation in decision-making and implementation of climate policy by integrating gender considerations (UNFCCC, 2017).

According to the UNDP Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change, the Women's Caucuses that have been in place since the 11th Conference to the Parties (COP11) have actively pushed for the inclusion of a gender perspective in every aspect of the UNFCCC.

The Gender and Climate Change Women for Climate Justice network organises these caucuses. Gender equality issues have also been actively promoted in international efforts to combat climate change by members of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), which was established in 2007 at COP 13 in Bali.

The advocacy is for women to participate in these negotiations and be consulted on their priorities, according to submissions to the international United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 13). In the end, if a gender-sensitive approach is not included in international climate change negotiations, decisions and actions will not be able to properly represent the needs, capabilities, priorities, and concerns of all parties involved. As a result, they will not be able to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions or uphold the principles of gender equitable sustainable development (Dennison 2013).

The significance of gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action is specifically acknowledged in the 2015 Paris Agreement, another historic international climate agreement. The agreement's Article 7 highlights the need for gender-responsive adaptation measures that give women and other vulnerable groups due consideration (UNFCCC, 2015). Integrated strategies to tackle gender inequality and climate change are also required under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 13 (Climate Action).

1.6.5 Regional Perspectives on Gender Mainstreaming and Climate Change

In the African context, women play a crucial role in food production, water management, and natural resource conservation, all of which are areas significantly affected by climate change (Aipira et al., 2017). As such, gender-responsive climate policies are essential for building community resilience and ensuring sustainable development. Several studies have highlighted

that African women are often left out of formal decision-making processes, and their knowledge and experiences are underutilized in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts (Terry, 2009).

In order to control the effects of climate change and ensure women's empowerment at the same time, several countries of the Global South have made gender equality a priority in their national and climate change policies. African governments have the chance to create and carry out nationally relevant policies through international commitments made through the Paris Agreement (2015) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+), National Communications (NC), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), national action plans, and climate change laws and legislation have all made significant efforts to mainstream gender.

Gender-responsive climate policies are increasingly recognized as essential for sustainable development. The African Union (AU) has made significant strides in promoting gender equality and climate resilience through several frameworks. The African Strategy on Climate Change and Resilience emphasizes the need to integrate gender perspectives into climate adaptation strategies. The AU's Agenda 2063 also highlights gender equality as a key pillar for Africa's socio-economic development, with specific references to climate resilience (African Union, 2015).

Additionally, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) advocates for the rights of women in areas such as land use, agriculture, and natural resource management, which are critical to building climate resilience (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 2003).

Globally, all 54 African nations have ratified the Paris Agreement and committed to implementing it in a gender-equitable manner, which includes evaluating gender disparities, creating baseline data, analysing current gender-related policies and strategies, and implementing gender-responsive budgeting in climate change policies, action plans, strategies, and frameworks (African Development Bank 2015). Additionally, African nations are dedicated to putting the Gender Action Plan (GAP) into action.

Regional frameworks and institutions have been established to address climate change, including developing climate-related policies and participating in international negotiations. Examples of these include the African Ministerial Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources (AMCEN), the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), and the African Union Commission's Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) program (Eastin, 2018).

Ninety-three percent (93%) of African nations are currently working on their NAPs, which offers a chance to include gender right away. Issues related to women or integrated gender were present in around half of the NDCs studied. However, the extent and nature of gender participation differed amongst NDCs; significant components included sector-specific adaptation measures, vulnerability contexts, social resilience building, capacity building, empowerment and financing.

Of the 54 African nations that have submitted NCs on climate change, 78 percent have mentioned the need to increase the resilience of women, children, and the elderly due to their susceptibility. A few African nations, notably Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria, have implemented climate change policies and legislative frameworks at the national level.

Despite the recognized need for gender-responsive climate policies, many African countries struggle to effectively integrate gender into national climate change frameworks. As Dankelman (2010) notes, there is often a disconnect between international gender equality

commitments and the actual policies implemented on the ground. In some cases, national climate policies mention gender but fail to provide concrete mechanisms for gender inclusion, such as financial resources or institutional support. Aipira et al. (2017) argue that for gender mainstreaming to be effective, governments must move beyond rhetoric and ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are embedded in all stages of policy development and implementation. Studies such as those by Ampaire et al. (2020) also mention that while these frameworks exist, the actual integration of gender in national and regional climate policies is often fragmented and lacks clear mechanisms for enforcement.

1.6.6 National Frameworks on Climate Action

National governments develop their own climate change policies using the global framework. The secret to success is integration into current development programs and more funding (Eastin, 2018). By addressing disparities, fostering resilience, and reducing long-term development costs, gender-based adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management will fight poverty and injustice. Many African nations, including Ghana, have created national climate action plans that take gender equality into account. National climate change policies are made to be in line with global accords like the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the UNFCCC.

Parties to the UNFCCC endorsed NAPs in 2010 as part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework to strengthen urgent adaptation efforts (Decision 1/CP.16.). By creating and implementing NAPs, UNFCCC initiated a mechanism to assist all developing nations but particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in identifying, prioritising, and implementing their medium- and long-term adaptation needs. With the primary goals of reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change by fostering resilience and adaptive capacity, as well as facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into pertinent new and existing policies, programs, and activities particularly development planning processes, the NAP process offers

guidance for assessing vulnerabilities, fostering adaptive capacity, and mainstreaming adaptation to climate change risks into all general and sector-specific development planning (UNFCCC, 2020a).

The 2015 Paris Agreement also reaffirmed a commitment to improve or develop adaptation planning and implementation, including the creation and execution of NAPs (UNFCCC, 2020a). The advice made for creating NAPs are broad suggestions rather than rigid rules. The creation of a stand-alone NAP or the integration of recommendations into pre-existing policies are up to the individual nations, as NAPs are voluntary.

According to Parry et al. (2017), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides LDCs with a means of identifying, prioritising, and financing their most pressing climate change adaptation needs through National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). Given that certain effects of climate change are gender specific, guidelines stipulate that NAPAs should be inclusive and incorporate both men and women at the local level. Gender and reproductive National Adaptation Programs health issues have not been well integrated into NAPAs in practice.

1.6.7 Climate Change Policies in Ghana

Ghana is recognized by the international community as a forward-looking country on climate action. The country is a signatory to the Climate Change Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and many others. In recent past, the country has developed several policies and strategies within the climate change and environment space. These include, Integrating Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development, Policies and Planning in Ghana (2010), the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS), 2012, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), 2013, the National Climate Change

Master Plan Action Programmes for Implementation: 2015– 2020, the National Environment Policy (2014), National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan (2016-2020), the Climate Change Learning and Green Economy Strategy (2016), etc.

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) of the nation promotes the inclusion of gender in climate-related policies and recognises the distinct effects of climate change on men and women (Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation [MESTI], 2013). Additionally, the necessity of advancing gender equality in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies is emphasised in Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement (Government of Ghana, 2015).

Gender differences in climate impacts are also addressed in Ghana's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS). It highlights the need for gender-sensitive approaches in adaptation planning and names women as one of the most vulnerable groups to climate change.

In 2015, Ghana joined the list of progressive countries by submitting its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (iNDCs). The iNDCs were subsequently ratified by the Parliament of Ghana in 2016 to give a legal backing to its implementation in Ghana and to also re-affirm the country's commitment to climate action to the international community. Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement specifically highlights the importance of gender equality in climate action, particularly in the areas of agriculture, water management, and energy (Government of Ghana, 2015). Today, the commitments are no longer intentions but are commitments with design strategies and programmes for implementation.

Despite these commitments, the practical integration of gender into climate policies in Ghana faces several challenges. A study by Osei-Amponsah et al. (2018) highlights that while

Ghana's policy frameworks mention gender, there is often a lack of clear guidelines and funding mechanisms for gender mainstreaming. In many cases, climate policies are designed without fully considering the specific vulnerabilities and needs of women, particularly those in rural and agricultural communities who are more affected by climate change.

Moreover, institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming remains limited. According to Ardayfio-Schandorf and Wallace (2020), while Ghana's Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection is tasked with promoting gender equality, its role in climate policy formulation is often peripheral. There is also a lack of collaboration between the ministry and key climate change stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, the implementation of these gender-sensitive policies has been slow, and gender mainstreaming remains under-resourced (Ardayfio-Schandorf et al., 2020).

1.6.8 Review of Key National and Strategy Policies Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in Ghana

From a regulatory standpoint, Ghana has several laws designed especially to control how people interact with the environment. Ghana's environmental preservation has a broad policy foundation thanks to Article 257 of the 1992 Constitution.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Act, 1994 (Act 490) was passed after the 1992 National Constitution. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created under the Act and has the power to take action to protect Ghana's environment. In accordance with the EPA Act, the Environmental Assessment Regulations (EAR) were adopted in 1999. The EAR (amended in 2002), primarily mandates that any environmental action or endeavour must first be registered with the EPA and have an environment permit issued for the undertaking before it can begin.

The fundamental legal framework for the creation of the Commission and the execution of its duties as a national coordinating body of Ghana's Decentralised Development Planning System is provided by the National Development Planning Commission Act, 1994 (Act 479) and the National Development Planning (System) Act, 1994 (Act 480).

In addition to these environmental management laws, the government has consistently created and implemented pertinent climate adaptation laws and policies that aim to strengthen adaptive capacity to withstand present and future climate change impacts, reduce social and economic vulnerabilities to those impacts, and protect the natural environment.

Ghana's adaptation to climate change is covered in a number of important national papers, and gender views are becoming more and more integrated. For example, gender-responsive measures in agriculture, water management, and disaster risk reduction are among the adaptation goals outlined in Ghana's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Promoting gender equality in climate adaption strategies is emphasised in Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which were submitted as part of the Paris Agreement.

However, scholars such as Owusu et al. (2020) argue that while these documents reflect a commitment to gender mainstreaming, their practical application is often hindered by limited financial support and a lack of coordination between government agencies. For instance, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection plays a peripheral role in the formulation and implementation of climate policies, which weakens the overall gender-responsiveness of these strategies.

Below is a summary of some of Ghana's most important climate adaption policies over time.

1.6.8.1 National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) (2014-2020)

Ghana's First National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was launched in 2013. This policy was developed to guide the country's approach to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and

sustainable development (Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation [MESTI], 2013). The policy's aim was to foster a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy, ensuring that climate change actions are integrated into national development plans (MESTI, 2013). The policy prioritized climate change adaptation strategies, especially for vulnerable sectors like agriculture, water resources, and energy (MESTI, 2013). It emphasized the need to enhance the resilience of communities, particularly in rural areas, and set out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable land use practices (MESTI, 2013).

One of the novel aspects of the policy was the recognition of gender issues. The policy acknowledged the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women, though its integration of gender was somewhat limited in terms of specific actions and resources (MESTI, 2013). It linked climate action to broader sustainable development goals, ensuring that climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts contributed to economic growth and poverty reduction (MESTI, 2013). The policy emphasized the creation of institutional mechanisms for coordinating climate action, including the establishment of the National Climate Change Committee and the Climate Change Directorate within the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI, 2013).

The NCCP provided a broad, inclusive framework addressing both climate change mitigation and adaptation. By combining these strategies, it laid the foundation for long-term climate resilience (MESTI, 2013). Ghana's policy acknowledged the importance of addressing gender in climate action, recognizing that women, especially in rural areas, are more vulnerable to climate change impacts (e.g., floods, droughts) (MESTI, 2013). The policy highlighted the need to consider the specific needs of women and marginalized groups in climate planning and also made it clear that climate change should not be seen in isolation but should be integrated into national development, linking it with Ghana's broader socio-economic goals

and the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) (Republic of Ghana, 2010). One other strength of the policy was that it sought to establish institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms, such as the creation of the Climate Change Directorate, which helped centralize climate action and ensured a more organized approach to addressing climate issues (MESTI, 2013).

One of the key challenges of the policy was the gap between policy formulation and actual implementation. While the policy provided a clear direction, there were limited financial resources allocated to support its objectives, particularly at the local level (Ministry of Finance, 2014). Also, despite acknowledging gender differences in the impacts of climate change, the policy did not provide comprehensive strategies or programs specifically aimed at empowering women or addressing the gender gap in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The practical implementation of gender-responsive actions remained weak (MESTI, 2013). The policy framework was broad and lacked specific, actionable plans with clear targets, timelines, and accountability measures (MESTI, 2013). This lack of detail hindered the ability to monitor and evaluate progress effectively (MESTI, 2013). There were significant challenges in building the capacity of local governments, communities, and institutions to implement the policy. This issue was exacerbated by insufficient technical expertise and inadequate training in climate change management at various levels of governance (MESTI, 2013). There were also challenges in gathering and utilizing data to inform climate change strategies. The absence of detailed, gender-disaggregated data made it difficult to assess the differentiated impacts of climate change on various populations, which hindered targeted interventions (MESTI, 2013).

When compared to other African countries, Ghana's climate policy had both positive aspects and certain drawbacks. Several countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, have implemented climate change policies that are either similar to or more advanced than Ghana's

(International Institute for Environment and Development [IIED], 2014). While gender mainstreaming in climate policies was limited globally in 2013, Ghana's policy was ahead of many African countries in recognizing the need to address gendered vulnerabilities and opportunities in climate change actions (e.g., Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa also adopted gender-sensitive climate policies, but Ghana's inclusion of gender in its policy framework was noteworthy) (IIED, 2014). Ghana's integration of climate change into broader national development frameworks (such as the GSGDA) is consistent with global trends and helps ensure that climate actions contribute to broader socio-economic objectives, similar to the Ethiopian approach, which emphasizes climate-resilient green growth (IIED, 2014; World Bank, 2015).

Like many other countries, Ghana aligned its climate change policy with international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, which was signed shortly after the policy's release in 2015 (United Nations, 2015). Ghana also incorporated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) into its policy, demonstrating alignment with global climate goals (MESTI, 2013).

Countries like Ethiopia and Rwanda have made significant strides in ensuring the integration of climate change policies at local levels, with more robust institutional frameworks for implementation (African Development Bank, 2016). In contrast, Ghana faced challenges in translating its policy into concrete actions, particularly at the community level, where climate change adaptation projects often lacked the necessary resources (MESTI, 2013).

Compared to other countries like Kenya, which have secured significant international climate finance (e.g., through the Green Climate Fund), Ghana has faced difficulties in mobilizing the necessary funding to support its climate action plans (Green Climate Fund, 2017). The lack of financial resources for implementing climate policies has been a common issue across Africa,

but Ghana's situation was particularly marked by underfunded national initiatives (MESTI, 2013).

Countries like South Africa and Mozambique have developed more comprehensive gender-responsive climate action plans, with clear strategies for empowering women and integrating gender into climate finance and decision-making processes (World Bank, 2015). Ghana's policy, while recognizing gender issues, did not provide the depth or scope of action seen in these countries (IIED, 2014). While countries like Uganda have made progress in integrating gender-disaggregated data and monitoring systems to assess the impact of climate change, Ghana's efforts in data collection and analysis were less advanced (MESTI, 2013). This gap makes it difficult for Ghana to evaluate the true effects of climate change on different population groups, particularly women, and to tailor interventions effectively (MESTI, 2013).

1.6.8.2 Ghana's National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) oversaw Ghana's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, which sought to address the nation's medium- and long-term adaptation needs in a coordinated and cogent way (EPA, National Development Planning Commission & Ministry of Finance, 2018). In order to begin the NAP process in Ghana and create a costed national adaptation strategy, the country started the Green Climate Fund (GCF) NAP preparedness initiative.

In addition to facilitating institutional coordination around climate change adaptation, the NAP process aims to identify medium- and long-term climate adaptation actions and expedite the mobilisation of funds for climate change adaptation (EPA, National Development Planning Commission & Ministry of Finance, 2018). Its approach includes mainstreaming adaptation across government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and sub-national structures to fully integrate climate adaptation considerations into Ghana's policy and

planning processes (Republic of Ghana, Environmental Protection Agency, 2019). Additionally, the nation's NAP process aims to support both domestic and global sustainable development goals by offering a framework for the planning and execution of adaptation measures specified in national policy and strategy documents. In order to facilitate strategic involvement, communication, and coordination across government ministries and sectors, MESTI has established a National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) as part of this process. The establishment of Climate Change Units in important government ministries including Energy, Forestry, Agriculture, Health, and Gender, which act as conduits for handling particular climate change concerns inside government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), further fortifies these structures.

Ghana pledged to create a gender-integrated NAP that outlines the disparities in climate vulnerabilities between men and women and provides a plan of action to mitigate those differences (Ministry of Finance, Republic of Ghana, and UN Environment, 2019). A plan has been created to guarantee and direct the successful incorporation of gender concerns into all of the project's primary activities in order to help realise this goal.

1.6.8.3 National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) (2010-2020)

Ghana created and released the NCCAS in 2012 as a component of the "Cancun Enhanced Adaptation Framework" to address the nation's medium- and long-term adaptation issues. Despite being released in 2012, the NCCAS's real program of actions began to be implemented in 2010 and was modified by 2020.

The NCCAS is regarded as the "blueprint" for tackling climate change adaptation in Ghana and is seen as one of the country's initial attempts to handle the issue in a logical and systematic way by examining present and potential adaptation deficiencies. With an eye towards "enhancing Ghana's current and future development by strengthening its adaptive

capacity with regard to climate change impacts and building the resilience of the society and ecosystems," the NCCAS projects the years 2010–2020.

Long-term vulnerability reduction and the creation of a more comprehensive and integrated national adaptation strategy are two important factors taken into account by the NCCAS. As a result, the NCCAS was designed to accomplish a number of goals, such as reducing vulnerability and widely implementing gender sensitivity.

1.6.8.4 Ghana's 2020–2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (GH-NDCs)

In order to fulfil its responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Ghana draughted and filed a number of national documents, which are built upon by its NDC initiatives. In the framework of sustainable development and initiatives to end poverty, the Agreement seeks to strengthen the international response to the threat of climate change by improving the Convention's implementation, including its goal.

In view of various national situations, the Agreement is being implemented to represent justice and the idea of shared but distinct duties and capabilities.

In its NDC, Ghana has proposed adaptation and mitigation measures according on its national circumstances. The NDC's incorporation of both adaptation and mitigation aligns with the universal sustainable development goals, the projected 40-year socio-economic transformative plan, and the medium-term development agenda (Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda II, or GSGDA 2).

1.6.9 International Conventions, Treaties, and Multilateral Agreements

Ghana has ratified a number of international agreements and conventions that support climate action and gender equality. These include the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), which

highlights the necessity of incorporating gender perspectives into environmental and development policies (UN Women, 1995), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which calls for the abolition of gender-based discrimination in all domains, including resource management and environmental protection (UN, 1979). Ghana committed to enacting gender-responsive climate policies as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Ghana has actively worked to fulfil its obligations under the three Rio Conventions, which it has ratified: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The coordination of these conventions' implementation is under MESTI's purview. The EPA of Ghana now houses UNFCCC and UNCCD focus persons and directly supervises the application of these treaties. Ghana prepared the National Climate Change Policy, National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as part of the approaches for implementing the Rio conventions. These documents serve as approaches and guiding documents for national implementation actions.

Ghana has joined the following international multilateral agreements, including the Paris Agreement, Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and has established numerous mechanisms to assist its implementation at the national level as a party to the Kyoto Protocol.

These international commitments provide a legal basis for promoting gender mainstreaming in climate policies at the national level. However, the effectiveness of these conventions in influencing national policy depends on the political will and institutional capacity to implement gender-responsive strategies.

1.6.10 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework is developed to guide the analysis of how gender is mainstreamed into climate change policies and strategies in Ghana. As shown in Figure 1 below, the conceptual framework illustrates the relationship between climate change impacts, gender roles and vulnerabilities, policy frameworks, and outcomes in terms of resilience and equity. The framework draws on insights from feminist theory and constructivist international relations theory, both of which emphasize the socially constructed nature of gender roles and the importance of inclusive, participatory governance in responding to global challenges (Wendt, 1999).

At its core, the framework is built around four interconnected domains:

a. Climate Change Impacts

This component outlines the direct and indirect effects of climate change in Ghana, including increased temperature, erratic rainfall, sea-level rise, and their socio-economic consequences on sectors such as agriculture, water, health, and livelihoods (Ghana EPA, 2015; IPCC, 2022). These impacts are often experienced differently by men and women due to pre-existing gender roles, access to resources, and responsibilities (Dankelman, 2010).

b. Gendered Vulnerabilities and Capacities

This domain captures how social, economic, and cultural norms shape the ways in which men and women experience climate change. Women, particularly in rural Ghana, often have less access to land, credit, information, and decision-making platforms, making them more vulnerable (Arora-Jonsson, 2011; Osei et al., 2020). At the same time, their knowledge and coping strategies make them essential actors in adaptation and resilience efforts (Brody et al., 2008).

c. Policy and Institutional Frameworks

This segment assesses the presence and quality of gender integration in key climate change policies in Ghana, such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It also includes legal and institutional developments such as the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Bill (2024) and the National Gender Policy, examining the extent to which they inform climate-related planning and programming (GSS, 2022; Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2015).

Outcomes: Gender-Responsive Climate Action

The final domain measures the degree to which climate change interventions reflect gender considerations. It focuses on the outcomes of these policies in enhancing women's participation, access to resources, and resilience-building, and how these contribute to equitable climate governance (UNFCCC, 2019).

This framework facilitates an analysis that goes beyond policy texts to understand both the intentions and practical realities of gender mainstreaming in climate change response. It allows the study to examine:

- i. Whether gender considerations are present in policy design.
- ii. How implementation mechanisms promote or hinder gender equity.
- iii. What outcomes are emerging in terms of inclusive climate resilience.

By using this framework, the research seeks to bridge the gap between normative commitments and on-the-ground implementation, offering policy-relevant insights to strengthen gender-responsive climate governance in Ghana.

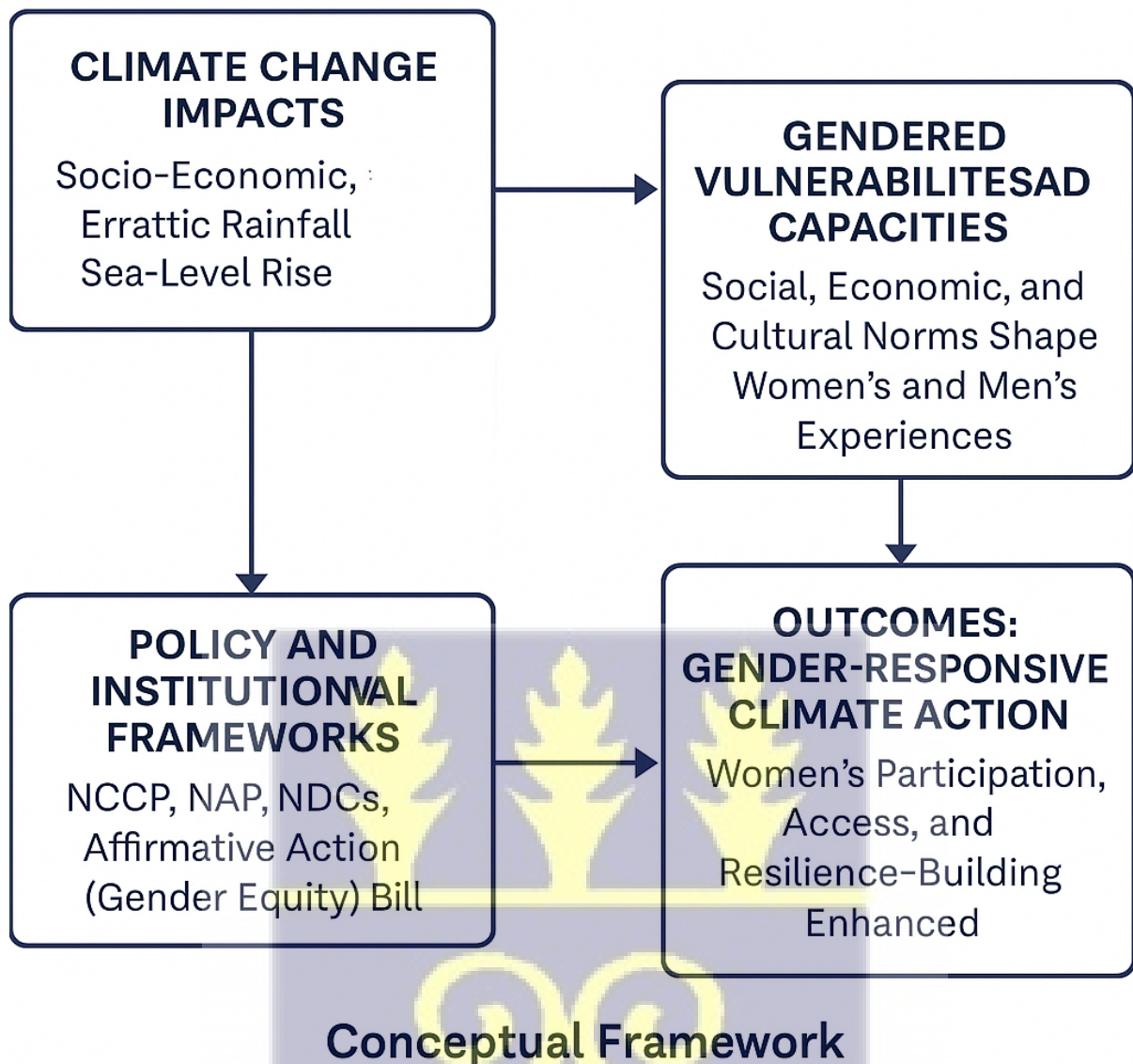


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change Policy in Ghana

1.6.11 Summary of Literature Review

This review of relevant literature critically examined the intersection of gender and climate change from global, regional, and national perspectives. It began by operationally defining key concepts such as climate change, gender mainstreaming, climate adaptation, and gender-responsive climate policies. These definitions established a strong conceptual foundation for the study.

At the global level, international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, and Agenda 2030 have emphasized the need for inclusive and gender-responsive climate action. Regional frameworks, particularly within Africa, have echoed similar commitments through mechanisms such as the African Union's Gender Strategy and the African Adaptation Initiative.

Nationally, Ghana has demonstrated a growing commitment to gender and climate action through policies such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). However, analysis of these frameworks reveals limited translation of gender integration into practical, measurable, and well-resourced interventions. Implementation challenges include insufficient funding, weak institutional coordination, and the absence of sex-disaggregated data to inform targeted strategies.

Additionally, studies highlight that gender inequalities in access to resources, decision-making, and participation in climate governance continue to hinder the effectiveness of climate responses. Women's contributions, particularly at the local level, remain underutilized, despite their critical roles in agriculture and natural resource management. Addressing these structural barriers is not only a matter of equity but also essential to achieving sustainable and inclusive climate outcomes. The success of gender mainstreaming efforts will also depend on addressing existing gender disparities in access to resources, decision-making, and adaptation opportunities.

In conclusion, the literature reveals that while there is significant progress in recognizing the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate change policies at the global, regional, and national levels, challenges persist in translating these commitments into effective action. In

Ghana, key climate policy documents acknowledge the need for gender-responsive strategies, but practical implementation remains limited. There is a need for stronger institutional collaboration, increased financial resources, and better monitoring mechanisms to ensure that gender perspectives are fully integrated into Ghana's climate policies.

This literature review sets the stage for the methodological framework used to investigate the extent of gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate change strategies and the barriers to effective implementation. The insights drawn from the review will also inform the analysis and policy recommendations in subsequent chapters. Addressing the gaps identified will be crucial to formulating more inclusive, equitable, and effective climate responses in Ghana.

1.7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Given the intricacy of the subject, a qualitative study methodology was chosen, which allowed for a thorough examination of the perspectives, experiences, and difficulties encountered by different stakeholders when putting gender-sensitive climate policies into practice. This study's research technique was created to investigate the degree to which Ghanaian climate change policy incorporate gender issues. It sought to determine the obstacles to gender-responsive climate governance and evaluate the success of gender mainstreaming within national frameworks for climate change. The research strategy, data collection techniques, and analytical methodology used to investigate gender responsiveness in Ghana's climate policies are described in this section.

1.7.1 Research Design

To investigate the complex relationship between gender and climate change in Ghana, a qualitative research strategy was selected, with an emphasis on the incorporation of gender-sensitive approaches into climate change policies and practices. The study aimed to provide

light on the "why" and "how" of gender dynamics in the larger framework of climate adaptation and mitigation tactics through qualitative inquiry.

Through the collection and analysis of non-numerical data, including written materials and interviews, qualitative research is a methodological approach intended to investigate complicated phenomena. It places a strong emphasis on comprehending the individualised experiences and interpretations that people make of social occurrences (Creswell, 2014). This approach is particularly effective in capturing the nuanced and multifaceted aspects of gender and climate change, as it allows for an exploration of the individual and collective experiences of women and men in relation to climate impacts.

In the context of this study, qualitative research offered a platform for participants to articulate their lived experiences in relation to climate vulnerability, access to resources, and participation in climate policy processes. As Patton (2015) emphasizes, qualitative methods provide an opportunity for in-depth exploration of participants' perceptions, which are crucial for understanding the gendered dimensions of climate change in Ghana. By focusing on participants' personal and collective experiences, qualitative research captures the complex realities of gendered vulnerabilities in the face of climate change.

1.7.1.1 Rationale for Qualitative Research

This method was selected for several reasons. First, qualitative research is particularly effective in exploring complex, context-dependent issues, such as the intersection of gender and climate change. Ghana's climate policies, while acknowledging gender inequalities, have not yet been fully implemented in a way that addresses the specific needs of women and marginalized groups. Qualitative research allows for an examination of the barriers to effective gender mainstreaming in climate policies, including cultural norms, political will, and resource allocation (Agarwal, 2010).

Second, qualitative research provides a deep, contextual understanding of the environmental, social, and cultural factors that influence how gender and climate change intersect. As noted by Denzin and Lincoln (2011), qualitative research emphasizes understanding phenomena within their natural settings. In this study, this means examining how local conditions, such as technological infrastructure, economic opportunities, and social structures, shape gendered climate responses in Ghana.

The flexibility of qualitative methods is another significant advantage. Researchers can adapt their data collection techniques such as semi-structured interviews, based on the evolving insights gathered during the research process. Maxwell (2013) points out that the inductive nature of qualitative research allows for the emergence of new insights and theories grounded in the lived experiences of participants, which is particularly valuable when exploring under-researched topics like gender and climate change.

Lastly, qualitative research generates rich, detailed data that provides a comprehensive view of participants' experiences and perspectives. Silverman (2016) notes that qualitative methods produce nuanced narratives that capture the complexities of human behavior, which is essential when investigating the intersection of gender and climate change. By using interviews, focus groups, and document analysis, this study will collect detailed data to understand the effectiveness of gender-responsive climate policies in Ghana.

1.7.1.2 Inductive Research Approach

An inductive approach was employed in this study to allow insights based on the data collected from participants. Unlike deductive research, which tests pre-existing theories, inductive research builds theoretical frameworks from empirical data, making it ideal for exploring complex, emerging issues where established theories may not fully apply (Patton, 2015).

The inductive approach allowed the study to generate new insights into how gender is integrated into climate change policy in Ghana. By examining the lived experiences of women and men, the research identified patterns and themes that emerge from the data. These insights can inform the development of context-specific frameworks and models for gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The inductive approach is particularly suited for this study because it facilitates a deep understanding of the specific contextual factors that affect the gendered impacts of climate change. As Denzin and Lincoln (2011) emphasize, qualitative research aims to provide a rich, contextual understanding of social phenomena. For this study, this means exploring how local conditions in Ghana, such as cultural norms, political structures, and regulatory environments, shape the gendered impacts of climate change.

1.7.1.3 Case Study Strategy

A case study research strategy was adopted to explore the implementation of gender mainstreaming in climate change policies in Ghana. Case studies provide a detailed, contextual analysis of a specific instance or phenomenon, offering a thorough understanding of complex issues (Yin, 2018). In this study, the case study approach allows for an in-depth examination of how gender is integrated into national climate change frameworks, such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), within the unique social and political context of Ghana.

Case studies are particularly valuable for exploring how local factors such as gendered access to resources, cultural beliefs, and the role of women in decision-making shape the success or failure of gender-responsive climate policies. By focusing on specific cases, such as rural communities in Ghana or the implementation of specific climate programs, the research will uncover the barriers and enablers of gender integration in climate governance. Creswell

(2014) notes that case studies allow researchers to gather comprehensive data, which is essential for understanding the depth and complexity of the issue at hand.

The case study approach also facilitates a detailed exploration of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by different stakeholders in Ghana's climate policy framework. By examining the experiences of policymakers, community leaders, and local activists, the research can identify practical strategies for improving gender-responsive climate action in Ghana.

1.7.2 Data Collection Methods

In this study, data was collected through a combination of secondary sources and primary sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate change policies. Document collection and review took place during the first three months of the study. The analysis involves systematically evaluating these documents to identify key areas where gender mainstreaming is included, to understand how well gender perspectives are integrated, and to identify any gaps. Interviews took place during the last three months of the study.

1.7.2.1 Document Analysis

Document analysis was a key method for collecting data on Ghana's climate change policies. The study reviewed national policy documents such as Ghana's National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), The Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (GCCAP), and international agreements like the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) documents, especially those focusing on gender mainstreaming. Additional secondary sources of information were accessed from the University of Ghana's library resources, such as the LECIAD Library and the Balme Library.

The analysis assessed the extent to which gender considerations were incorporated into these policies, identified gaps, and evaluated the effectiveness of the existing frameworks

1.7.2.2 Interviews

Structured and semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders involved in climate policy development and implementation in Ghana. These included government officials from ministries such as the Ministry of Energy, the Energy Commission, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the Ghana Meteorological Agency, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) working on climate change and gender issues were also included.

Perceptions of gender mainstreaming in climate policies, difficulties integrating and implementing policies, and suggestions for improving gender-sensitive climate strategies were all covered in the interviews. Perceptions of gender mainstreaming in climate policies, difficulties integrating and implementing policies, and suggestions for improving gender-sensitive climate strategies are all included in the interviews. The interviews explore perceptions of gender mainstreaming in climate policies, challenges faced in policy integration and implementation, and recommendations for enhancing gender-sensitive climate strategies.

1.7.3 Sampling

The method of sampling employed is the purposive sampling approach. The purposive sampling technique is used because the research is specialized and requires professionals in the field to speak to the technical issues. The study targets individuals and organizations that have been directly involved in climate policy development, gender advocacy, and climate adaptation projects. Using a non-probability sampling technique called purposeful sampling, units are selected based on the qualities that are necessary for a sample. In other words, in

purposive sampling, units are chosen "on purpose.". It is a non-random method that does not require a certain conceptual framework or a predefined number of subjects. Essentially, the academic researcher decides which information is obtained, afterwards pursues individuals that are able and interested to contribute that data (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011).

A sample size of 20 professionals were employed to collect primary data and as buttressed by Guest et al. (2006), data saturation can be reached within the first 12 interviews. Also, this sample size was selected due to the limited resources and time allocated for carrying out this study.

The 20 respondents were distributed as follows: 3 Officials at the Ministry of Energy and 3 Officials from Renewable Energy department at the Energy Commission, 3 Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, 3 Officials from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 3 Officials from the Ghana Meteorological Agency, 1 Official from Local Government of Ghana and 4 officials from a Climate Change focused Civil Society Organisation.

1.7.4 Validity and Reliability Test

In qualitative research, ensuring the validity and reliability of data collected through interviews is crucial for maintaining the integrity and credibility of the study. While these concepts are traditionally associated with quantitative research, they are equally important in qualitative research but require different approaches.

Validity in qualitative research refers to the accuracy and trustworthiness of the data and the extent to which the findings accurately represent the phenomenon being studied (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). The triangulation method was adopted to test the validity of the data. In order to cross-check and validate findings, triangulation entails using various data sources, methodologies, or researchers (Patton, 2015). Triangulation was accomplished in this study

by cross-referencing interview data with information from other sources, including reports from the cybercrime section and papers from Ghana's constitution.

In qualitative research, reliability pertains to the dependability and consistency of the procedures used for data collecting and analysis (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015). A technique of data gathering consistency was employed in order to attain reliability. Reliability depends on making sure that data collection methods are consistent throughout several interviews (Creswell, 2014). In order to guarantee that every interview was carried out in the same way and enable uniform data collection, this study employed a standardised interview guide and methodology.

1.7.5 Data Analysis

Thematic Analysis was employed to analyze data from interviews and document reviews. This approach was used to identify key themes such as the level of gender integration in policies, barriers to gender mainstreaming, and the impact of policies on women's livelihoods. Thematic analysis was applied to closely examine the data and identify recurring themes, ideas, and patterns of meaning.

1.7.6 Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was sought from the relevant authorities before commencing data collection. Participants in the interviews and surveys were informed of the study's purpose, and their consent was obtained. Anonymity and confidentiality were guaranteed to all participants to protect their privacy and encourage honest responses.

1.7.7 Limitations of the Study

The study encountered challenges in accessing up-to-date and comprehensive policy documents, as some policies were not fully available in the public domain. Time and resource constraints limited the number of interviews that could be conducted, which may have

affected the depth of data collection. Additionally, there was a possibility of response bias, particularly in the interviews, where participants may have provided socially desirable answers rather than candid opinions.

1.7.8 Justification for the Methodology

The use of a qualitative approach allowed for a comprehensive analysis of gender mainstreaming in climate policies. Qualitative methods, such as interviews, were crucial for understanding the experiences and challenges faced by both women and men, as well as policymakers. Document analysis provided valuable insights into the policy frameworks and validated the study's findings. This approach ensured a thorough exploration of the research questions and enhanced the reliability and validity of the study's conclusions.

1.8 ARRANGEMENT OF CHAPTERS

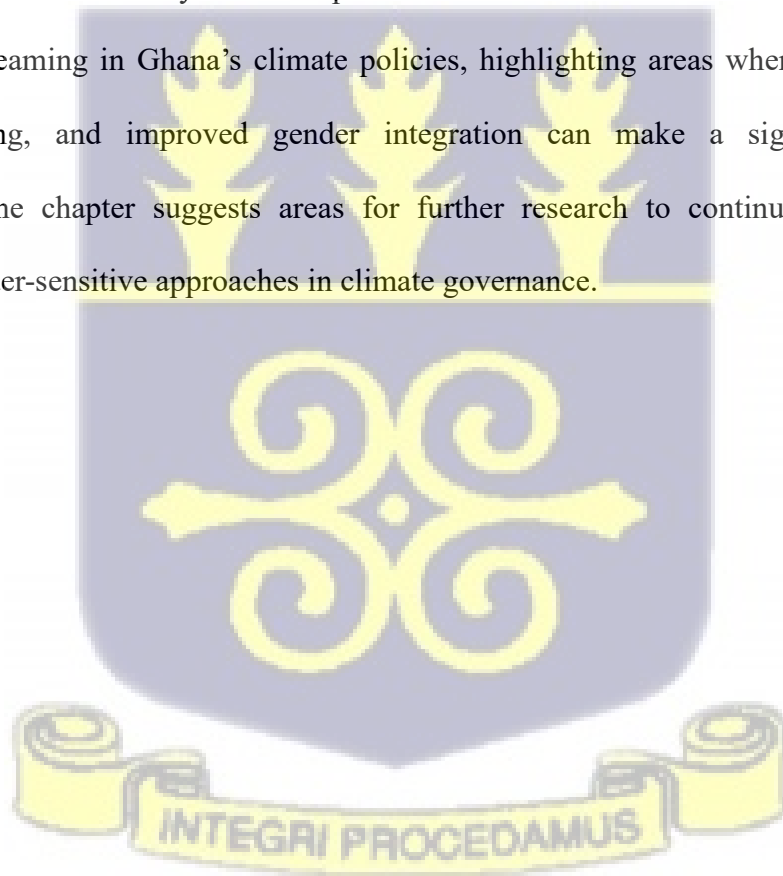
The study is structured into four chapters, each focusing on essential components of the research on gender mainstreaming in climate policies.

Chapter One introduces the study, providing an overview of the research context, including the statement of the problem, research questions, objectives, justification, and the scope of the study. It also outlines the theoretical and conceptual framework guiding the study, reviews relevant literature, defines key terms, and discusses the methodology employed in data collection and analysis.

Chapter Two focuses on the theoretical foundations of gender mainstreaming in climate policy. It explores the evolution and significance of integrating gender perspectives into climate action, with an emphasis on the challenges and opportunities that arise from incorporating gender-sensitive approaches. This chapter sets the stage for understanding the crucial role of gender mainstreaming in achieving equitable and effective climate policies.

Chapter Three provides the analysis and discussion of the research findings. It presents the data collected through interviews and surveys, analyzing participants' perceptions, attitudes, and insights on gender integration in climate policies in Ghana. The chapter discusses key themes, such as the awareness of gender issues in climate change, the impact of gender on climate vulnerability, and the role of gender-disaggregated data in informing policy decisions. The findings are contextualized within broader gender and climate change frameworks, offering a deep dive into the current state of gender mainstreaming and identifying barriers and opportunities for improvement.

Finally, Chapter Four concludes the study by summarizing the key findings and drawing conclusions based on the analysis. It also provides actionable recommendations for enhancing gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies, highlighting areas where policy reform, capacity-building, and improved gender integration can make a significant impact. Additionally, the chapter suggests areas for further research to continue exploring and advancing gender-sensitive approaches in climate governance.



CHAPTER TWO

OVERVIEW OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES AND POLICIES IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN GHANA

2.0 INTRODUCTION

One important approach for tackling the disparate effects of climate change on men and women is gender mainstreaming. In order to guarantee that both genders gain equally from climate action, gender-sensitive approaches must be incorporated into climate policies and plans. This is becoming increasingly apparent on a global scale. Because they depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods, women in Ghana especially those living in rural areas, are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Notwithstanding these facts, there is still little incorporation of gender issues into Ghana's climate policies.

2.1 GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN GHANA

Ghana is especially susceptible to the effects of climate change, which are predicted to worsen the country's already-existing social, economic, and environmental issues. For a lot of developing nations, this is true. Ghana's dependence on climate-sensitive industries including agriculture, energy, and water resources makes it vulnerable. Millions of Ghanaians' livelihoods are at risk due to climate change's effects, which include altered rainfall patterns, increased temperatures, droughts, and floods. This is especially true for people who live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for a living.

In this way, gender has a big impact on how climate change affects specific communities. Because of their disparate social roles, access to resources, and ability to make decisions, men and women in Ghana are affected by climate change in various ways. Women are frequently in charge of overseeing household finances, water and food production, especially

in rural areas. These tasks make them more vulnerable to climate-related shocks, such as water scarcity, crop failure, and extreme weather events.

Additionally, gender norms and social structures often restrict women's access to land, credit, technology, and information, limiting their capacity to adapt to changing climate conditions. Conversely, men may also face challenges, but these are often less directly related to household survival and resource management. Considering this, gender-sensitive policies are essential to addressing the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women in the context of climate change.

2.2 GENDER-DIFFERENTIATED IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The unique ways that climate-related changes, like extreme weather events, shifting rainfall patterns, and environmental degradation, effect men and women differently, especially in rural and low-income communities are referred to as the gender-differentiated impact of climate change. Pre-existing gender roles, socioeconomic inequalities, and unequal access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making processes are the causes of these inequities. These gendered effects are most noticeable in sub-Saharan Africa, which includes Ghana, where women are frequently the ones who suffer the most from climate change because of their responsibilities for caring for others, managing households, and producing food.

2.2.1 Impact on Agricultural Production

Growing climate variability in Ghana is having a major effect on agricultural output, frequently with disparate effects for men and women, especially when it comes to their financial, social, physical, natural, and human resources. For example, women in rural Ghana, particularly in areas where livestock farming is prominent, fear losing access to grazing land and other vital resources due to changing climate patterns (Goh, 2012). Climate change also influences the types of crops farm households grow, which can alter decision-

making processes, labor division, and control over income. In Ghana, as in other regions of Africa, the commercialization of agriculture is often seen as a strategy to help farmers adapt to climate change. However, this shift often weakens women's control over agricultural products by focusing more on the sale of crops rather than on decisions around household consumption (Tavenner et al., 2019).

In response to droughts and other climate-related shocks, the composition of livestock herds often changes, with a shift from cattle and camels to smaller livestock like sheep and goats, which are typically managed by women. This shift increases the burden on women, who are tasked with more labor and responsibility compared to men (Walker et al., 2022). Similarly, as rainfall becomes more unpredictable and soil fertility declines, farming households in Ghana are being forced to cultivate more land to compensate for reduced crop yields. This increase in land cultivation places additional demands on labor, with women taking on larger roles in agricultural production while also managing domestic duties, particularly in situations where male household members migrate in search of off-farm work (Nelson & Stathers, 2009). Furthermore, the unpredictable rainfall requires more frequent replanting, which significantly increases the time women spend on farming tasks, further straining their already heavy workloads.

While increasing crop and livestock diversity in response to climate change can improve food security and household income (Makate et al., 2016; Snapp & Fisher, 2015), it also leads to higher labor demands for women. Studies from Ethiopia show that the adoption of crop diversification and agricultural technology has diverted women's time from childcare and food preparation to increased agricultural labor (Teclwold et al., 2013). This phenomenon is consistent with findings in Ghana, where women in female-headed households are often disproportionately affected by labor demands. For example, girls are sometimes pulled out of

school to assist their mothers with household and farm activities, which limits their educational opportunities (Maertens & Swinnen, 2009).

Accessing the agricultural tools, extension services, and training required to successfully adjust to the effects of climate change is extremely difficult for women in Ghana (Witinok-Huber et al., 2021). From awareness to actual use, these obstacles are visible at every level of technology adoption (Oyetunde-Usman et al., 2021). As observed in other African nations including Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Tanzania, cultural and institutional constraints like gender roles and norms frequently prevent women from accessing crucial agricultural technologies (Achandi et al., 2018). Furthermore, women are frequently at a disadvantage when it comes to adjusting to climate unpredictability because of their limited mobility and time constraints, which influence how they obtain and react to climate and weather information (Goh, 2012).

Although research indicates that there is no gender disparity in capabilities when access to agricultural inputs is taken into account, Ghanaian agriculture is more susceptible to the effects of climate change in female-headed households due to a lack of access to vital resources including land, labour, and capital (Burke et al., 2018). Women's ability to devote time to farming, diversify crop or livestock production, or work outside the farm is restricted by social conventions and traditional gender roles, especially when it comes to caring for others (FAO, 2015).

Cultural norms in some Ghanaian villages still prohibit women from growing particular crops or going to markets, which makes it more difficult for them to adjust to the country's changing climate. Furthermore, a lot of climate adaption strategies call for investments in labour, technology, inputs, and collective action networks, all of which can be expensive for households with little access to finance, especially those with few working-age adults who

are primarily women. Women find it more difficult to successfully respond to climate change as a result of these socioeconomic and gender disparities, which also influence investment priorities and access to vital weather and climate data.

In conclusion, women in Ghana face several obstacles as a result of climate change, and they are disproportionately impacted since they have less access to resources, technology, and decision-making authority. Reducing the uneven burden on women in agriculture and food security and ensuring that both men and women can adapt to climate change require gender-responsive measures.

2.2.2 Impact on Food and Nutrition Security

Food production, availability, access, diet quality, and nutrition at the household level are all significantly impacted by climate change, with major ramifications for food security. Extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and land degradation have a direct impact on this, as can economic shocks and health problems including the spread of illnesses and pathogens made worse by climate change (Sorensen et al., 2018). However, not every member of society is equally affected by the detrimental consequences of climate change on food and nutrition security. Women are more severely affected by the effects of climate change in areas like sub-Saharan Africa, where food insecurity is already common. This is due to the vulnerability of women caused by socially assigned gender roles, limited access to resources, and the gendered division of labor (IPCC, 2014; Botreau & Cohen, 2020).

Climate change threatens food and nutrition security through reduced agricultural yields, crop failures, animal losses, water scarcity, and the destruction of productive assets. Climate variability, which includes damage from extreme weather events including heat stress, disease outbreaks, floods, and droughts, is especially dangerous for crop and animal agriculture systems (Jones & Thornton, 2009). Research indicates that societal, institutional,

and structural biases that are present in many countries, especially in families led by women, exacerbate the negative effects of climate change on women's food and nutrition security (Weiler et al., 2014).

Crop yields, which are critical for supplying vital nutrients like calcium, folate, thiamine, and pyridoxine—all of which are critical during pregnancy—can be significantly impacted by extreme weather events (Blakstad & Smith, 2020). Climate change also worsens maternal malnutrition, as unreliable rainfall in rainfed agricultural systems compromises rural households' ability to provide adequate food. The impact of infectious diseases further compounds this issue, particularly for maternal, fetal, neonatal, and child health, with the exacerbating factor being maternal malnutrition.

Studies have shown that climate-related malnutrition among women often occurs because they tend to skip meals in order to feed other family members during times of food scarcity or travel long distances to gather water and fuel (Salm et al., 2021). In northern Ghana and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, it is common for women to reduce their own food intake to ensure that male household members have enough to eat during periods of food shortage (Serna, 2011).

Children under the age of five, born during drought periods in areas like northern Ghana, are particularly vulnerable, with studies from Ethiopia and Kenya showing that they are 36 to 50 percent more likely to suffer from malnutrition (Smith et al., 2014).

The distribution of food within households also reflects the effects of climate change on gender and food security. While weather-related crop failures brought on by insufficient rainfall or extreme weather events lower food consumption for all households, the effect is noticeably more noticeable in households led by women, particularly those who are widowed, divorced, separated, or single, according to a study by Tibesigwa et al. (2015). According to

the report, families headed by women were 21% more likely than those headed by men to face food insecurity. Given that women frequently have lower resources and fewer support systems, this conclusion confirms previous studies that found female-headed households are more susceptible to climate and weather variability (Deaton & Dreze, 2002; Babugura, 2010).

In summary, climate change disproportionately impacts food security in Ghana, with women and female-headed households bearing a larger share of the burden. As climate variability affects food production, access, and nutritional outcomes, addressing the gendered dimensions of food insecurity is crucial for ensuring the resilience of households, particularly in rural Ghana. Gender-responsive strategies are necessary to support women's adaptation to climate change and to mitigate the unequal effects they face in terms of food security and nutrition.

2.2.3 Impact on Health

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) predicts that climate change will erode public health gains across the globe, with sub-Saharan Africa, including Ghana, being particularly vulnerable. The effects of climate change on health in Ghana will be felt through various channels, including malnutrition caused by drought-induced food insecurity, worsening chronic diseases that are sensitive to environmental changes, reduced water quality, and the spread of diseases due to the increased viability of pathogenic microbes and their vectors (Sorensen et al., 2018). In Ghana, the health impacts of climate change on women, both direct and indirect, are exacerbated by existing socio-economic disparities, as well as physiological, cultural, and socio-economic factors.

Due to greater rates of chronic malnutrition and heightened susceptibility to climate-induced food and nutrition insecurity, particularly during pregnancy and lactation, Ghanaian women are more susceptible to the negative health effects of climate change (Sorensen et al., 2018).

Additionally, infectious infections can exacerbate the impacts of maternal malnutrition, which can lead to more dire consequences for the health of the mother, foetus, and child as a result of climate change (Blakstad & Smith, 2020). According to Thiede et al. (2022), for instance, fertility rates among African women exposed to above-average temperatures and below-average rainfall were significantly lower the following year. Similarly, studies by Grace et al. (2015) show that fluctuations in temperature and precipitation impact birth weight, with consequences linked to dependence on particular agricultural systems, which is particularly relevant for Ghana, where smallholder farming remains a dominant practice.

Additionally, climate-related extreme weather events in Ghana, such as droughts and floods, have direct economic consequences for women. For instance, droughts can diminish household assets, increase food insecurity, and heighten risks to sexual and reproductive health (Rosen et al., 2021). Gender-specific vulnerabilities often mean that women experience higher mortality rates during climate-induced disasters. For instance, in historical famines, such as the Ethiopian famine of 1984/85, female mortality was disproportionately high, mainly due to unequal access to food resources (Kidane, 1989). In Ghana, women who give birth during or after a disaster also face higher risks of complications such as preeclampsia, premature delivery, and other reproductive health issues (WHO, 2002; Tong et al., 2011).

Climate change is also likely to exacerbate the spread of diseases such as malaria in Ghana. Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns can create ideal conditions for the spread of malaria, with pregnant women being especially vulnerable. In Ghana and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, pregnant women are three times more likely than non-pregnant women to experience severe malarial sickness, and their fatality rates are much greater (World Bank, 2012). Furthermore, low birth weight can result from malaria during pregnancy; infants born to women with malaria are more likely to be underweight at birth, which may have long-term

developmental effects (Ofori et al., 2009). The long-term consequences of low birth weight can make it harder for women to provide care, reducing their time for other worthwhile pursuits and making the home more vulnerable.

In Ghana, malaria undermines agricultural productivity in addition to affecting the health of women. For example, farmers who were ill with malaria for an average of 4.2 days during a single cabbage production cycle had a 47 percent drop in yields and a 53 percent drop in revenue compared to farmers who were ill for only 0.3 days (Girardin et al., 2004). This illustrates the significant economic impact of malaria on farmers in Ghana, particularly female farmers, who are often responsible for the majority of household labor. Preventive health interventions, such as providing bed nets, have been shown to improve productivity, with a study in Zambia showing that access to bed nets resulted in a 14.7 percent increase in harvest value (Fink & Masiye, 2015).

In summary, the health impacts of climate change in Ghana are deeply gendered, with women facing disproportionate risks related to food insecurity, maternal health, and the spread of diseases like malaria. The socio-economic disparities that women face amplify their vulnerability to climate change, making it essential to adopt gender-responsive strategies in health and agricultural interventions to reduce the adverse effects on women's health and economic well-being in Ghana.

2.2.4 Impact on Water and Energy

Africa, including Ghana, is one of the driest continents globally, with only 9% of the world's renewable water resources. In Ghana, like many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, decreasing precipitation, particularly in the northern regions, and changing climate patterns are threatening water security. This growing uncertainty around water availability directly impacts health and wellbeing, which are closely tied to access to water (Niang et al., 2014).

Women are disproportionately affected by inadequate water supplies, especially during the dry season, due to societal norms that assign water collection responsibilities to them. In rural areas of Ghana, this task often falls to women and girls, consuming significant amounts of their time and energy, which could otherwise be spent on educational, social, or economic activities. Studies show that women in sub-Saharan Africa are primary water collectors, with estimates showing that 46-90% of adult females in 24 African countries, including Ghana, are responsible for collecting water. Moreover, girls are also tasked with water collection more often than boys, with 62% of female children compared to 38% of male children in these countries taking on this duty (Graham et al., 2016). In Ghana, the time spent collecting water could be better used for education or other productive tasks. Research has shown that reducing the time it takes to fetch water could significantly lower the prevalence of diseases like diarrhoea and reduce under-five mortality rates (Pickering & Davis, 2012).

Climate change further exacerbates the health challenges posed by water and energy insecurity. In Ghana, as in other African nations, many rural households still rely on traditional biomass fuels for cooking and lighting, a practice that contributes significantly to air pollution. The emissions from the burning of biomass in homes, particularly in the form of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), are a major health hazard. In 2018, about 6.8 million tons of PM_{2.5} were emitted across Africa, with 85% of this coming from indoor burning of biomass (IEA, 2019). In Ghana, particularly in rural areas, women are more likely to suffer from the health impacts of indoor air pollution, such as respiratory diseases, low birth weight, cardiovascular diseases, and cataracts, due to their daily exposure to smoke from cooking with biomass. Research from other African countries, like Ethiopia and Uganda, shows that adult women are exposed to higher levels of PM_{2.5} compared to men, and this exposure increases significantly when they cook with livestock dung or crop residues (Okello et al.,

2018). In Ghana, women often cook during the hottest part of the day, exposing them to even higher concentrations of harmful particulates, further worsening their health.

Moreover, the labor involved in fetching water and firewood imposes physical burdens on women, leading to musculoskeletal damage and early onset of conditions such as arthritis (Fry et al., 2010). As climate change intensifies, land degradation in Ghana will likely worsen, further reducing access to water and energy sources, and deepening the challenges faced by women and girls. This situation puts additional strain on already vulnerable households, compounding the negative impacts on women's health and livelihoods. Women in Ghana are particularly vulnerable to the combined effects of climate change, land degradation, and water scarcity, making it essential to address these issues in a gender-responsive manner to ensure the health and well-being of women and communities at large.

2.2.5 The Impact of Climate-Induced Disaster, Migration, and Conflict

Climate change in Ghana, as in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, is expected to increase the risk of disasters, such as droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks, which will disproportionately affect women due to pre-existing gender inequalities. As climate-induced changes reduce soil fertility, crop yields, and availability of water and energy resources, smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, face greater challenges in maintaining their livelihoods. Men often migrate to urban centers or other rural areas for off-farm work in response to the decline in natural resources. However, this migration places additional burdens on women, who are left behind to shoulder an increased workload with fewer off-farm opportunities (Djouidi & Brockhaus, 2011).

In rural Ghana, gendered migration patterns exacerbate women's vulnerability, as they are less able to diversify their livelihoods due to limited access to property rights, decision-making power, and social or economic opportunities. Social and cultural norms, which often

restrict women's roles to caregiving and domestic tasks, further prevent them from accessing the resources needed to adapt to climate challenges. For example, in many Ghanaian communities, men have the authority to make critical decisions regarding the sale or transfer of family assets, such as cattle, which are key to survival during climate-related droughts or disasters. Women, however, are excluded from these decisions, reducing their capacity to protect the family's livelihood (Ndlovu & Mjimba, 2021).

Climate-induced disasters, such as floods, droughts, or disease outbreaks, often lead to an increase in gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage, as families struggle to cope. During such times, women's sexual and reproductive health needs are frequently neglected, leading to increased maternal mortality, unintended pregnancies, and child marriage (McLeod et al., 2019; Behrman & Weitzman, 2016). The exclusion of women from decision-making in disaster preparedness and response, and their limited access to resources and information, further entrenches gender inequalities in wealth, health, and social status.

In Ghana, as in other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the vulnerability of women to climate-induced disasters is compounded by traditional gender roles. Social expectations often prevent women from fleeing dangerous situations during disasters, as caregiving responsibilities to children and the elderly take precedence over their own safety. This social construction of vulnerability, wherein women have limited access to resources, information, and decision-making power, increases their exposure to the risks of natural disasters. Studies have shown that women in rural Ghana, similar to those in Mali, face heightened vulnerability when men migrate for work, as they are often left without the rights or resources needed to protect their livelihoods and secure tenure of land and property (Juran & Trivedi, 2015).

Moreover, the lack of a gender perspective in disaster response and recovery operations often amplifies these vulnerabilities. Women frequently encounter difficulties in proving property ownership, and in some cases, property and aid are distributed through male heads of households, which leaves women without the necessary support (IFRC, 2017). As a result, women in Ghana and across the region experience higher mortality rates during disasters compared to men due to these socially constructed inequalities (Neumayer & Plumper, 2007).

In rural Ghana, women are heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, including water, land, and pasture. Climate change, which exacerbates land degradation and water scarcity, intensifies competition over these resources. This increased competition often leads to conflicts, particularly between farming and pastoral communities. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by these tensions and resource conflicts, as they are primary water collectors and food producers. As mobile pastoral communities become more sedentary due to environmental changes, competition for resources like water and land increases, leading to further conflicts that directly impact women's safety and wellbeing (Bronkhorst, 2011).

In this context, climate change in Ghana does not just pose an environmental challenge, but also a deeply gendered one, with women facing disproportionate risks and barriers to adaptation. Addressing these challenges requires a gender-responsive approach that recognizes the specific vulnerabilities and capacities of women, while promoting greater inclusion in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resource management.

2.3 GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN GHANA'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

In Ghana, gender mainstreaming in climate change policies has seen some progress, but there are still significant gaps in policy implementation. The Gender and Climate Change Action

Plan (GCCAP), developed by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), aims to promote gender equality in the context of climate change by increasing women's participation in decision-making, enhancing their access to resources, and building their capacity for climate adaptation (MoGCSP, 2015). However, the integration of this plan into national policies has been slow, and its implementation faces several challenges, such as limited funding and political will (Amoako, 2019).

Moreover, despite the existence of gender-responsive frameworks like the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), these policies tend to focus primarily on environmental and economic outcomes, with less emphasis on gendered impacts. As Tetteh (2020) and Yamkely et al. (2017) highlight, gender considerations are often treated as secondary to other climate change priorities, leading to insufficient support for women's empowerment in climate governance.

2.4 RATIONALE FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING

2.4.1 Historical Context and Evolution of Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming was emphasized in the Beijing Platform for Action as a strategy to promote equality between men and women. The platform highlighted the importance of grassroots and non-governmental organizations in creating an environment conducive to gender equality. The involvement of women in monitoring and implementing this platform was essential to achieving its goals (UN Women, 1995). Prior to gender mainstreaming, most gender equality strategies focused specifically on women or women-centered initiatives. However, there was a growing recognition that gender inequality is a relational issue, meaning that addressing gender inequality requires engaging both men and women to change societal structures, norms, and roles. Gender mainstreaming, therefore, emerged as a more holistic and inclusive approach (World Health Organization, 2011).

2.4.2 Importance of Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change

Gender mainstreaming is essential to ensure that climate change policies do not perpetuate existing gender inequalities. For example, women often face higher vulnerability due to unequal access to resources like land, water, and information, as well as limited decision-making power (Agarwal, 2009). Integrating gender considerations into climate-related policies ensures that both women and men can equally benefit from and contribute to these efforts. Gender equality is interwoven throughout the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and achieving these goals is impossible without addressing gender-based inequalities. In particular, climate action (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14), and life on land (SDG 15) all require gender-sensitive approaches. Without adequate gender data and consideration of women's roles in managing natural resources, climate policies and strategies risk overlooking the needs of half of the population, which undermines overall effectiveness (United Nations, 2015).

There are significant co-benefits to linking gender equality with climate change adaptation. Empowering women can enhance community resilience, improve resource management, and increase overall productivity, contributing to better climate outcomes. Addressing gender disparities also strengthens the adaptive capacity of households and communities to climate-related challenges (UN Women, 2017).

2.4.3 Practical Steps for Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change

Gender mainstreaming begins by incorporating gender considerations into national climate change plans and strategies. These plans should recognize the gendered impacts of climate change, ensuring that both women and men are included in project identification and design. This step helps ensure that the climate policies are not one-size-fits-all but are responsive to the specific needs and capacities of both genders (UNFCCC, 2016).

Conducting gender analysis is central to understanding how climate change and disasters differently affect women and men. This process involves gender-sensitive data collection, stakeholder analysis, and the identification of gender-specific needs, barriers, and risks. This information helps to design solutions that target these inequalities (GIZ, 2018).

Gender-sensitive solutions should be crafted through processes like problem tree analysis, barrier and risk analysis, and the development of a gender-responsive theory of change. These steps allow planners to articulate how interventions will address the specific needs of women and men in terms of disaster preparedness, adaptation strategies, and climate change mitigation (UN Women & GCF, 2017).

It is essential to integrate gender-responsive approaches into the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) phase of projects to track their effectiveness. This includes reporting on gender outcomes and the impact of interventions on both women's and men's resilience to climate change (UN Women, 2019).

2.5 CHALLENGES OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN GHANA'S CLIMATE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Several factors contribute to the challenges of gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies. These include limited financial resources, inadequate gender-disaggregated data, weak institutional frameworks, and societal barriers. These factors combine to create significant obstacles in ensuring that gender equality is fully integrated into the country's climate strategies and that both women and men can equally benefit from climate action initiatives (Ampaire et al., 2020).

2.5.1 Cultural Norms and Gender Stereotypes

The ingrained cultural norms and gender stereotypes that are prevalent in Ghanaian society are among the biggest obstacles to gender mainstreaming in climate policies. Gender role stereotypes frequently prevent women from obtaining knowledge, credit, and land—all of

which are vital for climate adaptation and mitigation (Kabeer, 2016). For instance, patriarchal traditions that place males as the heads of homes and the main decision-makers frequently restrict the decision-making authority of women in rural areas, where they are the major administrators of household food security and water collection. Women's engagement in climate governance and the leadership positions necessary for successful disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are hampered by these social hurdles. Furthermore, these gendered restrictions often prevent women from accessing the necessary tools, technologies, and knowledge to adapt to climate change impacts.

2.5.2 Limited Political Will

Despite some recognition of the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate change policies, political will to fully integrate gender considerations into these policies remains limited. In Ghana, although gender-sensitive policies exist in theory, the commitment to their full integration into climate policies and national development plans is often weak, leading to a disconnect between policy goals and actual implementation (Zhou et al., 2019). This lack of political will is reflected in the insufficient inclusion of gender considerations in key climate documents and programs, as well as the failure to allocate dedicated resources for gender-responsive interventions. Politicians and policymakers often prioritize short-term economic and environmental outcomes over long-term gender equity, resulting in missed opportunities for climate policies that are both inclusive and equitable. The failure to ensure that women's voices are heard in climate decision-making further perpetuates existing gender inequalities.

2.5.3 Insufficient Funding and Resources

Another challenge faced by gender-sensitive climate change programs in Ghana is insufficient funding. Many initiatives aimed at addressing the differential impacts of climate change on men and women suffer from inadequate resources, which limits their reach and

effectiveness (Bennett, 2016). This is particularly true for grassroots-level programs, which are crucial for ensuring community-based adaptation and resilience-building. Although there are global mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, that provide funding for climate action, targeted financial resources for gender-responsive climate action in Ghana are still underdeveloped. Moreover, international funding often focuses on technical or infrastructure-based solutions, with less emphasis on social dimensions such as gender equity, empowerment, and inclusive decision-making. This financing gap results in the sidelining of gender considerations in climate projects, as well as the inability to scale up successful gender-focused interventions.

2.5.4 Lack of Capacity

A key challenge to effective gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies is the lack of capacity within both governmental and non-governmental institutions to implement gender-sensitive climate policies. Many institutions, particularly at the local level, do not have the necessary personnel, resources, or technical expertise to ensure the meaningful integration of gender perspectives in climate change projects and programs (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). For example, climate change policies are often designed and implemented by male-dominated technical teams that lack the necessary understanding of gender dynamics. Without adequate training in gender analysis and gender-responsive approaches, policymakers and practitioners are unable to assess the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women or to develop interventions that address those differences. Moreover, the absence of gender specialists in climate-related agencies exacerbates the gender gap in decision-making processes. Capacity-building efforts, therefore, must be a central component of any strategy aimed at enhancing gender mainstreaming in climate policies.

In sum, the challenges facing gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies are multifaceted and rooted in both institutional and societal barriers. Addressing these

challenges requires a comprehensive approach that includes increasing political will, improving financial investments in gender-sensitive climate programs, building institutional capacity, and dismantling cultural norms and gender stereotypes that limit women's participation and access to resources. Only by overcoming these challenges can Ghana create a more inclusive and equitable climate governance system that ensures both women and men can equally contribute to and benefit from climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts.

2.6 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN GHANA'S CLIMATE POLICIES

While gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies faces several challenges, there are also significant opportunities to advance gender equality and enhance climate resilience. These opportunities can help bridge the gaps in policy design, implementation, and monitoring, ensuring that both women and men are equally involved in and benefit from climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives. The following sections explore some key opportunities for gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies.

2.6.1 Alignment with Global Commitments

One of the greatest opportunities for gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies is the country's alignment with international frameworks that advocate for gender equality in climate action. Ghana is a signatory to global agreements like the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both of which emphasize the importance of gender-sensitive climate policies. Specifically, SDG 13 (Climate Action) calls for the integration of gender-responsive measures in climate change policies (UN, 2015). Similarly, the Beijing Platform for Action and the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan provide frameworks for integrating gender in climate actions globally. Ghana can leverage these commitments to strengthen the integration of gender considerations into its national climate policies and

ensure that gender equality becomes a central component of climate-related decision-making (UNFCCC, 2020).

2.6.2 Increasing Awareness of Gender Inequality

There is a growing recognition within Ghanaian society of the importance of addressing gender inequalities, particularly in the context of climate change. Increasing public awareness and policy advocacy from both national and international organizations are creating a fertile environment for gender mainstreaming. Civil society organizations, women's rights groups, and grassroots organizations in Ghana are increasingly advocating for greater inclusion of women in climate governance (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). This momentum presents a unique opportunity for integrating gender-responsive approaches into national climate strategies. It also provides a platform for women's voices to be heard, particularly those from rural and marginalized communities who are most affected by climate impacts.

2.6.3 Gender-Responsive Climate Finance

There is an emerging opportunity to develop and access gender-responsive climate finance mechanisms. International climate financing bodies, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), increasingly require the integration of gender considerations into project proposals and funding allocations (Bennett, 2016). Ghana, with its increasing commitment to climate action, has the chance to tap into these global financing mechanisms to fund gender-sensitive climate change programs. These resources can be used to support initiatives that enhance women's access to land, credit, information, and technology, thereby improving their adaptive capacity and fostering community resilience. Furthermore, climate finance specifically targeting gender equality can help bridge the funding gap for gender-focused climate interventions, enhancing the overall impact of climate policies in Ghana.

2.6.4 Strengthening Local and National Institutional Capacity

A key opportunity lies in strengthening the institutional capacity at both the local and national levels to design and implement gender-responsive climate policies. Ghana's existing climate change policies, including the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), can be enhanced by integrating gender-sensitive mechanisms at every stage of the project cycle—from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). By developing gender-responsive capacity-building programs, governmental and non-governmental organizations can ensure that climate policies are informed by gender analysis, enabling them to address both women's and men's needs effectively. In particular, government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), and local district assemblies can be empowered through training in gender-sensitive climate action to improve the mainstreaming of gender in climate programs.

2.6.5 Leveraging Traditional Knowledge and Practices

Another opportunity for gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies is the recognition and integration of traditional knowledge and practices into climate adaptation strategies. Women, particularly in rural areas, have a wealth of local knowledge regarding resource management, agriculture, water conservation, and biodiversity conservation (Kabeer, 2016). These traditional practices can provide innovative solutions to climate challenges and can be effectively integrated into formal climate action plans. Ghana's climate policies have the opportunity to bridge the gap between indigenous knowledge systems and modern scientific methods, ensuring that both women's and men's contributions to climate change adaptation and natural resource management are acknowledged and utilized (Kabeer, 2016).

2.6.6 Inclusive Policy Design and Consultation

Ghana's climate policy design process presents a significant opportunity for gender mainstreaming. There is an increasing recognition that the involvement of women and marginalized groups in policy consultation and decision-making is crucial for designing effective and inclusive climate policies (Zhou et al., 2019). Community-based consultations, stakeholder forums, and public participation processes can ensure that the needs and perspectives of women, particularly those in vulnerable sectors like agriculture, are represented. By involving women in the design, planning, and implementation of climate policies, Ghana can ensure that these policies are responsive to the needs of all members of society, particularly the most vulnerable. Furthermore, gender-sensitive consultations can uncover hidden barriers to women's participation in climate action, such as legal restrictions, limited access to education, and economic constraints (Zhou et al., 2019).

2.6.7 Partnerships with Civil Society and Women's Organizations

Strengthening partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's organizations can provide critical support for gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies. These organizations are often at the forefront of climate adaptation efforts, providing community-based solutions and advocacy (Ampaire et al., 2020). By partnering with women's organizations, such as the Ghana Women's Empowerment Movement (GWEM), the Ghana Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, and other grassroots organizations, the government can amplify its efforts to mainstream gender in climate action. These organizations can also play a pivotal role in raising awareness, conducting gender analysis, and advocating for women's rights within the broader climate change discourse.

2.6.8 Improving Gender-Disaggregated Data Collection

One of the key opportunities for advancing gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies is the development of gender-disaggregated data. Gender-sensitive data collection is critical for understanding how climate change affects women and men differently. By gathering data on gender-based vulnerability, access to resources, and the differing roles of women and men in climate change adaptation, the government can design more effective policies and interventions (Ampaire et al., 2020). This data will also enable better monitoring of progress towards gender equality in climate action. Collaborative efforts between government agencies, research institutions, and international partners can help fill the data gaps and ensure that future climate policies are more inclusive and equitable.

2.7 JUSTIFICATION FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The primary justification for gender mainstreaming is rooted in human rights and social justice. Every person, irrespective of sex, should have equal opportunities to influence and benefit from climate change-related investments. Women are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change and disasters, and their involvement in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts is crucial for ensuring their rights and improving their resilience (UN Women, 2017).

Ignoring half of the population, women, when designing climate change policies and interventions is not only unjust but ineffective. Women possess invaluable knowledge and expertise in areas such as natural resource management, farming, and household-level resilience. Excluding their perspectives and experiences means potentially missing key information that could enhance the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts (GIZ, 2018).

Gender equality is smart economics. Empowering women leads to increased productivity, better development outcomes, and stronger community resilience, all of which contribute to greater adaptive capacity in the face of climate change. Investing in gender equality and climate action together creates a more sustainable and resilient future for all (GCF, 2017).

2.8 GENDER-SENSITIVE STRATEGIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Although gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate change policies remains a work in progress, several strategies have been proposed or implemented to better integrate gender considerations into climate change governance. These strategies seek to address the different vulnerabilities of men and women and ensure that climate action is inclusive.

2.8.1 Promoting Women's Participation in Climate Decision-Making

One of the primary strategies for gender mainstreaming is increasing the participation of women in climate governance. Women's voices are crucial in shaping climate policies, as they bring unique perspectives on the challenges faced by their communities. In Ghana, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) has worked to enhance women's involvement in national climate change discussions. However, women's participation in decision-making remains limited, particularly at the local level, where most climate impacts are felt. To improve participation, the government has been encouraged to implement gender quotas in climate governance bodies and ensure that women have equal access to decision-making roles.

2.8.2 Capacity Building and Empowerment

Another critical strategy is empowering women through capacity-building programs that increase their knowledge and skills in climate resilience. These programs include training in climate-smart agriculture, access to renewable energy technologies, and capacity building in disaster risk reduction. By enhancing women's capacities to adapt to climate change, these

programs seek to improve their resilience to climate shocks and enable them to take on leadership roles in community-level adaptation initiatives.

2.8.3 Access to Resources and Climate Financing

Addressing the unequal access to resources, including land, finance, and technology, is essential for gender mainstreaming in climate change policies. In Ghana, there have been efforts to increase women's access to climate financing, particularly for adaptation projects. However, many women still face challenges in accessing financial resources due to cultural norms, lack of collateral, and limited financial literacy. Policymakers have been urged to create more gender-responsive financing mechanisms that target women, particularly in rural areas, and ensure that women have the resources to implement climate adaptation strategies.

2.8.4 Gender-Disaggregated Data Collection

Effective gender mainstreaming requires the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to understand the specific impacts of climate change on different gender groups. In Ghana, the collection of gender-sensitive data is still in its infancy, and there is a need to improve data systems that capture gender differences in climate impacts and vulnerabilities. By incorporating gender-disaggregated data into climate action planning, policymakers can design more targeted interventions that address the unique needs of men and women.

2.8.5 Gender-Sensitive Climate Education and Awareness

Raising awareness about the gendered impacts of climate change is essential for fostering a more inclusive approach to climate action. In Ghana, the government, along with NGOs and CSOs, has been involved in climate education campaigns that include gender perspectives. These campaigns aim to educate both men and women about the links between gender and climate change, highlighting the role of women in climate resilience and encouraging men to participate in gender-sensitive climate actions.

Gender mainstreaming is not just a moral or legal obligation but also a strategic approach that enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts. By ensuring that both women and men's knowledge, needs, and perspectives are considered, gender mainstreaming can help create more equitable, resilient, and adaptive communities. It is crucial for policymakers and organizations to incorporate gender-sensitive strategies across the entire project cycle, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation, to achieve comprehensive, inclusive, and effective climate solutions.



CHAPTER THREE

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION ON RESEARCH FINDINGS ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN GHANA'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the analysis and discussion on the research findings on gender mainstreaming in climate change policies in Ghana, offering insights into the perceptions, awareness levels, and recommendations of participants regarding the integration of gender considerations into climate action strategies. Given the significant impacts of climate change on different gender groups, understanding how these impacts are perceived and addressed is crucial for developing effective and inclusive policies. The data was collected from reputable institutions such as the Ministry of Energy, the Energy Commission, Climate Change focused civil society organizations (CSOs), the Ghana Meteorological Agency, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The findings highlight several key themes, including the level of awareness of climate change policies, perceptions of gender-specific impacts, the relevance of gender mainstreaming, and the necessity of incorporating gender-disaggregated data. Furthermore, the research delves into the current state of female participation in climate decision-making and explores the strategies deemed essential for enhancing gender equity in climate governance.

By analyzing these findings, this chapter aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate policies.

The discussion will draw on the perspectives of participants to illuminate the critical role that gender considerations play in achieving sustainable and equitable climate action. Through this exploration, the chapter seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on gender and

climate change, offering practical recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to foster greater inclusivity and effectiveness in climate strategies.

3.1 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

In this section, the findings will be systematically presented from the research on gender mainstreaming in climate change policies in Ghana. The findings are organized around key themes that emerged from participant responses, providing a comprehensive overview of their perspectives and insights. Through this structured presentation of findings, the study aims to provide a clear and coherent understanding of the current landscape of gender mainstreaming in climate change policies in Ghana. Each section will draw upon participant responses to highlight the interplay between gender and climate action, ultimately informing the subsequent discussion and conclusions.

3.1.1 Awareness of Climate Change Policies

The awareness of climate change policies is crucial for fostering effective stakeholder engagement in the integration of gender considerations. Understanding how well stakeholders are informed about existing climate policies provides valuable insight into the effectiveness of outreach efforts and their implications for gender mainstreaming. The data reveals a high level of awareness of climate change policies, with 65% of respondents indicating they are very aware and 35% somewhat aware. No participant reported being unaware of these policies, suggesting a generally high level of engagement with climate change issues among the study population.

3.1.1.1 Context of Awareness Levels

The data reflects substantial engagement with climate change policies among key stakeholders. The overall high level of awareness is crucial for the effective implementation of climate policies, as it ensures that those involved in decision-making and action are informed about

the relevant frameworks guiding climate action (Yamamoto & Hasegawa, 2018). Interviewees confirmed the widespread awareness, with one official from Energy Commission noting:

“Most people are familiar with the general climate change policies, especially those in urban areas or working within climate-focused NGOs.” – **Energy Commission**

Respondent 2, September 2024

3.1.1.2 Analysis of Awareness Levels

The study found that 65% of respondents are very aware of climate change policies, highlighting a solid base of knowledge among stakeholders. This heightened awareness can be attributed to targeted outreach efforts from governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organizations, as well as the increasing recognition of climate change as a critical issue globally. One participant from an NGO, the Centre for Green Growth shared:

“Our community outreach programs have greatly helped raise awareness on climate change, and more people are now familiar with national policies and their roles in climate action.” – **Centre for Green Growth Respondent 1, August 2024**

However, 35% of respondents who are somewhat aware point to a gap in full engagement. These individuals may not have fully absorbed the implications of climate policies or may have had limited access to information.

3.1.1.3 Implications for Gender Mainstreaming

The varying levels of awareness among government officials and CSO representatives have significant implications for gender mainstreaming in climate policies. A high level of awareness is essential for ensuring that both women and men can actively contribute to climate discussions. However, the group that reported being somewhat aware may include individuals who are less informed or may not have full access to relevant policy information. This could be due to a lack of engagement with policy details or the absence of tailored outreach strategies targeting specific groups.

This highlights the need for gender-sensitive engagement strategies, ensuring that vulnerable groups, such as rural women or those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, have the necessary information to participate in climate change discussions and solutions.

The moderate awareness found among some groups underscores the need to address information barriers. By offering educational initiatives that emphasize the gendered impacts of climate change, stakeholders can encourage greater participation and ensure more inclusive engagement. These efforts are crucial for developing climate policies that address the unique needs of both women and men, particularly in marginalized communities (Bennett, 2016).

3.1.1.4 Recommendations for Policy Development

To improve gender mainstreaming in climate policies, it is essential to develop communication strategies that target under-informed groups. Utilizing local languages and culturally relevant materials can significantly enhance outreach effectiveness, ensuring that information about climate change policies reaches those who may not have access to formal education or technological resources (Zhou et al., 2019).

Additionally, fostering collaboration between governmental bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community leaders is crucial. This partnership can amplify awareness efforts and ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into every stage of policy development. As one interviewee from a local NGO suggested:

“It’s essential for local leaders and community-based organizations to be involved in spreading information and raising awareness about gender and climate change.” –

Voices of Women and Children with Disabilities in Ghana -Respondent 2, August 2024

Collaborative efforts will help tailor climate action plans to the specific needs of both men and women, particularly in rural or marginalized areas, ensuring that climate policies are inclusive and equitable.

By addressing gaps in awareness through these strategies, Ghana can foster a more informed and engaged populace, which is key to successful gender mainstreaming in climate change policies.

3.1.2 Perceptions of Gender-Based Impact

This section examines participants' views on how climate change impacts different gender groups, with a particular focus on understanding perceptions of the gendered effects of climate change. The study reveals that the majority of respondents perceive climate change to disproportionately affect women, highlighting the importance of targeted interventions to address these gender-specific vulnerabilities. Specifically, 65% of respondents believe climate change primarily impacts women, while 35% assert that it affects both genders equally. These findings provide valuable insights into how stakeholders view the intersection of gender and climate change in Ghana.

3.1.2.1 Understanding Gendered Impacts

The significant majority (65%) of respondents who recognize that climate change primarily affects women reflects an understanding of the distinct vulnerabilities that women face in Ghana. This finding aligns with existing literature that emphasizes the gendered dimensions of climate change, where women often bear a greater burden due to their socio-economic roles, particularly in agriculture and resource management (Agarwal, 2010). For instance, women are often responsible for securing food, water, and energy for their households, making them particularly vulnerable to climate-related stresses such as droughts, floods, and changing agricultural patterns (Denton, 2002). This reflects a widespread perception that climate change exacerbates gender inequalities, as women are more directly involved in climate-sensitive activities.

3.1.2.2 Implications of Equal Impact Perception

On the other hand, 35% of respondents who believe that climate change impacts both genders equally may reflect a more generalized or neutral view of climate change. This perception can oversimplify the complex, gendered nature of climate impacts, as it overlooks the ways in which gender norms, socio-economic status, and access to resources shape the experiences of men and women differently (Kabeer, 2016). The presence of only one male respondent who noted equal impact further suggests a potential disconnect in understanding the nuances of gendered vulnerabilities. As an officer from the EPA noted:

“Climate change affects everyone, but in different ways, depending on what role you play in society.” – EPA Respondent 4, September 2024

This highlights the importance of unpacking the specific impacts that climate change has on different groups and understanding how gender norms influence the ability to adapt and respond.

3.1.2.3 Gender Norms and Awareness

The predominance of respondents recognizing that women are more affected by climate change may be attributed to growing awareness of gender equality issues within the context of climate change. This shift reflects a deeper understanding of the social roles that contribute to gendered vulnerabilities in climate impacts. As climate change increasingly becomes part of global development and gender equality discussions, there is a greater recognition of the need for gender-sensitive approaches in policy development (Bennett, 2016). Conversely, the minority viewpoint of equal impact may indicate a lack of exposure to or understanding of how gender norms affect climate vulnerability. One male participant from the Ministry of Energy shared:

“I believe everyone is impacted the same way, but I’ve come to realize that women face more challenges in certain aspects like farming and household chores.” –

Ministry of Energy Respondent 1, August 2024

This suggests that there may still be misconceptions or limited knowledge regarding the specific gendered aspects of climate change, particularly among those who have not been exposed to in-depth discussions on gender and climate issues (Zhou et al., 2019).

3.1.2.4 Implications for Gender Mainstreaming in Policy

The results of the study highlight how crucial gender mainstreaming is for climate strategies. The foundation for developing policies and actions that especially address the needs and problems of women is the recognition that women are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Gender-sensitive approaches can improve resilience to climate impacts by focusing on capacity building, resource access, and the empowerment of women.

As one participant pointed out, “If policies focus on empowering women, they will be better able to cope with the impacts of climate change.” – **Resource Link**

Foundation Respondent 1, September 2024

Strategies such as providing women with access to education, decision-making roles, and financial resources are essential to enhancing their resilience (Agarwal, 2010). Additionally, policies should be developed that consider the experiences of both genders, ensuring that the unique challenges faced by women are not overlooked (Denton, 2002). For example, integrating gender considerations into national and local climate adaptation programs can ensure that women, who often have different coping mechanisms and needs, are not left behind.

3.1.3 Relevance of Gender Mainstreaming

This section examines participants' perceptions of the relevance of gender mainstreaming in climate strategies in Ghana, with the aim of emphasizing the broad consensus on the necessity of integrating gender considerations into policy frameworks. The study reveals that 64% of respondents view gender mainstreaming as "very relevant," 17% consider it "somewhat relevant," and another 17% deem it "relevant." These findings indicate strong recognition of the role that gender plays in climate action.

3.1.3.1 Understanding the Relevance of Gender Mainstreaming

The fact that 64% of respondents consider gender mainstreaming "very relevant" suggests a clear acknowledgment of the importance of inclusive strategies in climate change policies. Gender mainstreaming entails incorporating gender perspectives throughout all stages of policy development and implementation, ensuring that the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women are adequately addressed (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). This finding is consistent with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which highlight gender equality as a cornerstone for achieving effective climate action (United Nations, 2015). A respondent from a governmental agency explained:

“Integrating gender into climate policies ensures that no one is left behind, especially the most vulnerable groups who often bear the greatest burden of climate impacts.”

– **Ghana Meteorological Agency Respondent 2, August 2024**

This statement reflects the growing recognition of the need for gender-sensitive climate strategies in Ghana.

3.1.3.2 Implications for Policy Development

The high proportion of respondents who view gender mainstreaming as "very relevant" demonstrates an understanding that inclusive climate policies are more effective in addressing the unique vulnerabilities faced by women and marginalized groups. Recognizing these

vulnerabilities is essential for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change (Agarwal, 2010). Effective climate policies should incorporate the experiences and contributions of both men and women, ensuring that interventions are tailored to the needs of diverse groups. As one participant from a CSO noted:

“Gender equality is not just a goal but a necessary approach to achieving real, impactful solutions to climate change. We must listen to and engage everyone, especially those who are most affected.” - **Women in Water, Sanitation and Climate Change,**

Respondent 1, August 2024

The support for gender mainstreaming also underscores the growing awareness that engaging both genders in climate discussions leads to more holistic and comprehensive solutions. Inclusive participation fosters better decision-making processes, allowing for climate strategies that reflect the needs of all community members, thus leading to more equitable outcomes (Bennett, 2016).

However, the 17% of respondents who consider gender mainstreaming "somewhat relevant" and another 17% who find it "relevant" may reflect a more moderate understanding of its significance. These views could stem from a variety of factors, including limited exposure to gender-focused climate strategies or the perception that integrating gender into climate policies adds complexity to policy-making processes. Some stakeholders may see gender mainstreaming as an additional layer of work without immediate, visible benefits, which could lead to skepticism about its importance (Zhou et al., 2019). As one participant from a government agency noted:

“Gender is important, but sometimes I feel it complicates the process of getting things done, especially when we already have limited resources.” – **Energy Commis-**

sion Respondent 5, September 2024

Such perspectives highlight the need for continued education and awareness-raising to address these concerns.

3.1.3.3 Recommendations for Enhancing Relevance

To further strengthen the integration of gender perspectives in climate strategies, the study suggests implementing targeted training programs that equip stakeholders with the skills and knowledge to effectively incorporate gender considerations into climate policies (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). These programs could include workshops, seminars, and capacity-building initiatives that demonstrate the practical benefits of gender mainstreaming and provide concrete examples of how it can be done effectively.

Additionally, showcasing successful case studies of gender mainstreaming in climate action can help demonstrate its value and encourage broader acceptance. Highlighting the positive outcomes of gender-sensitive climate initiatives such as enhanced resilience, more sustainable outcomes, and greater community involvement can motivate stakeholders to see gender mainstreaming as an essential part of climate policy development (Bennett, 2016). For instance, showcasing successful women-led climate adaptation projects can inspire other communities and policymakers to adopt similar approaches.

By addressing the varying levels of understanding and skepticism about gender mainstreaming, Ghana can ensure more inclusive and effective climate strategies that respond to the unique needs of both men and women. This will ultimately contribute to more equitable and sustainable outcomes in the country's climate change efforts.

3.1.4 Importance of Gender-Disaggregated Data

This section highlights the critical role that gender-disaggregated data plays in informing climate change policies, with a focus on how participants perceive its significance in addressing gender-specific impacts. The study reveals that 71% of respondents consider the collection of

gender-disaggregated data as "very important," 24% as "important," and 6% as "somewhat important." These findings underscore the widespread recognition of the importance of this data in formulating effective and equitable climate interventions.

3.1.4.1 Understanding Gender-Disaggregated Data

Gender-disaggregated data refers to information that is separated by gender, allowing policymakers to analyze how climate change impacts different gender groups in distinct ways. The overwhelming support for its importance, with 71% of respondents rating it as "very important," demonstrates a broad understanding among stakeholders of the need to capture the unique experiences, vulnerabilities, and contributions of men and women in the context of climate change (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). One participant from a government agency noted:

“Without gender-specific data, we risk developing policies that fail to address the different needs of men and women, leaving some groups more vulnerable.” – **Local**

Government of Ghana Respondent 1, September 2024

This sentiment reflects the growing recognition that gendered impacts of climate change must be adequately understood and addressed through tailored interventions.

Gender-disaggregated data plays a vital role in understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by different gender groups. Such data is essential for designing targeted interventions that can address the vulnerabilities of women, who are often more severely impacted by climate change, especially in sectors like agriculture and water management (Agarwal, 2010; Kabeer, 2016). For example, knowing how women's agricultural roles are affected by changing weather patterns can help craft more effective climate adaptation strategies that better support their livelihoods and food security.

Furthermore, gender-disaggregated data enhances the accountability of climate policies by allowing stakeholders to track how different gender groups are impacted by specific interventions. Monitoring and evaluating these impacts ensure that policies are equitable and effective.

tive, leading to better resource allocation and identifying gaps in services provided to marginalized groups, particularly women. One participant from a CSO emphasized:

“Gender-disaggregated data helps us track whether women are receiving the support they need and if policies are reaching the right people.” - **Strategic Youth Network for Development Respondent 1, August 2024**

3.1.4.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness

While the majority of respondents (71%) recognize the importance of gender-disaggregated data, the 24% who consider it "important" and 6% who deem it "somewhat important" highlight that there are still gaps in understanding among some stakeholders. These variations may stem from differences in experience, access to information, or familiarity with gender issues in climate research. As one government official noted:

“We acknowledge the need for gender data, but our capacity to collect and analyze it remains limited.” – **EPA Respondent 3, September 2024**

This suggests that more capacity-building efforts are necessary to enhance stakeholders' understanding of gender-disaggregated data and its critical role in formulating effective climate policies (Zhou et al., 2019).

3.1.4.4 Implications for Climate Research and Policy

The findings emphasize the need to integrate gender-disaggregated data into all climate research frameworks and policy development processes. By doing so, researchers and policymakers can gain a clearer understanding of how climate impacts differ across gender groups, enabling more precise strategies for mitigation and adaptation (Neumayer & Plümper, 2007). Furthermore, this data can be instrumental in ensuring that interventions are aligned with the roles women play in climate action, thus strengthening community resilience.

3.1.5 Integration of Gender in Climate Strategies and Policies

This section evaluates the current state of gender integration in climate strategies, providing insights from participants on how well gender considerations are incorporated into existing policies. The findings reveal important perspectives on the integration of gender into climate change frameworks in Ghana.

A significant 76% of respondents believe gender considerations are "partially integrated" into climate change strategies and policies, while 6% view them as "fully integrated." In contrast, 6% of respondents believe gender is "not integrated," and 12% believe it is "not integrated" at all. These responses shed light on the varied levels of gender integration across climate policies and strategies.

3.1.5.1 Understanding the Levels of Integration

The predominant view of 76% of respondents stating that gender is "partially integrated" suggests that while gender issues are recognized, substantial gaps remain in their full incorporation into climate policies. One government official noted:

"While gender is discussed in climate policy, the measures to address it are often not specific or actionable enough to make a real difference." – **Ghana Meteorological**

Agency Respondent 1, September 2024

This points to an awareness of the importance of gender but a lack of comprehensive implementation.

Partial integration can result in policies that acknowledge gender differences without adequately addressing the distinct needs and vulnerabilities of different gender groups. An interviewee from an NGO commented,

“We see gender mentioned in the policy documents, but when it comes to programs on the ground, it’s not always evident. Gender-sensitive measures often get sidelined.”-

Women in Sanitation, Water and Climate Change Respondent 1, August 2024

This lack of comprehensive gender-sensitive strategies risks missing opportunities to build resilience and develop more targeted adaptation initiatives that reflect gender dynamics.

The responses indicating "not integrated" (6% and 12%) reflect a deeper concern, where climate policies entirely overlook gender considerations. The failure to address gendered vulnerabilities perpetuates inequalities, particularly as men and women face different challenges due to their roles in society and the economy.

Interestingly, 6% of respondents reported that gender is "fully integrated" in some climate policies. While this is a positive outcome, the low percentage highlights that fully gender-integrated policies are still the exception rather than the rule.

3.1.5.2 Implications for Policy Development

The study findings underscore the need for policies that move beyond partial or superficial gender inclusion. There is a clear demand for comprehensive strategies that fully integrate gender considerations, ensuring gender equality is embedded throughout the policy-making process. As one respondent emphasized:

“Policies need to move beyond talking about gender, they need to act on it.” -

EcoClub 360 Respondent, August 2024

This could involve developing frameworks that focus on gender equality as a central aspect of climate strategy, rather than as an add-on or afterthought (Bennett, 2016).

Training programs aimed at enhancing the understanding of gender dynamics in climate change are also critical for improving policy effectiveness. Equipping policymakers and

stakeholders with the tools to meaningfully integrate gender into their climate strategies will promote more inclusive and impactful outcomes. One interviewee suggested:

“Training for local government officials on the gendered impacts of climate change could go a long way in improving how policies are created and implemented.” - **Local**

Government of Ghana Respondent 1

3.1.6 Female Participation in Decision-Making

This section examines the participants' evaluations of female participation in climate-related decision-making, highlighting both the barriers to increased involvement and the opportunities for improvement. The findings reveal significant insights into the current state of gender representation in this critical area.

A majority of 65% of respondents rate the level of female participation in climate-related decision-making as "moderate." Meanwhile, 6% rate it as "high," and 29% rate it as "low." These responses highlight the current state of female involvement in climate decision-making and reflect various structural challenges that need to be addressed.

3.1.6.1 Understanding the Ratings of Female Participation

The predominant "moderate" rating (65%) suggests that while there is some female participation in climate-related decision-making, it is insufficient or not fully representative. This moderate rating indicates that barriers to full participation still exist, limiting the overall effectiveness of climate policies.

The 29% of respondents who rated female participation as "low" point to persistent structural barriers that inhibit women's engagement in decision-making processes. These barriers include socio-cultural norms, limited access to education and resources, and the lack of opportunities for women to assume leadership roles.

The low percentage of 6% who rated female participation as "high" underscores the significant gap in representation. This reflects the fact that women remain underrepresented in key decision-making roles within climate policy and governance, resulting in policies that often do not fully address their unique needs and perspectives. As one participant pointed out:

“Without strong female voices at the table, decisions often fail to reflect the realities that women face in the community.”- **Resource Link Foundation Respondent 1, August 2024**

3.1.6.2 Importance of Female Participation

The findings emphasize the importance of female participation in climate-related decision-making for several reasons. Women's unique experiences and perspectives are essential in developing effective climate strategies. Their involvement can contribute to more comprehensive and inclusive policies that address the needs of all community members. As one interviewee explained:

“Women bring different perspectives to the table, especially when it comes to managing natural resources and community-based adaptation.”- **Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Respondent 2, September 2024**

Research supports the idea that greater female participation leads to better outcomes in environmental governance and resource management. A diverse decision-making body is more likely to craft policies that are effective in addressing complex issues like climate change (Bennett, 2016).

3.1.6.3 Implications for Policy Development

The research findings highlight key implications for improving female participation in climate decision-making in Ghana. The low levels of female participation call for concerted efforts to create more opportunities for women in climate-related forums and decision-making

bodies. This could involve setting gender quotas, creating mentorship programs, and facilitating networking opportunities for women in the environmental sector.

Investing in training and capacity-building initiatives is essential to empower women to take on leadership roles in climate policy and advocacy. These initiatives should focus on providing access to information, resources, and training that equip women with the skills needed to engage effectively in decision-making processes. One participant stressed:

“Capacity-building initiatives are key to ensuring that women have the knowledge and confidence to influence policies and advocate for their communities.” - **ECOclub**

360 Respondent 1, August 2024

By fostering greater female participation in climate-related decision-making, policies can become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of climate action in Ghana.

3.1.7 Recommendations for Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming

This section summarizes the key recommendations made by participants to improve gender mainstreaming in climate policies. These suggestions focus on policy reforms, enhanced data collection, increased funding, raising awareness, and supporting women-led initiatives to ensure more inclusive and effective climate action.

The findings show that 41% of respondents see "policy reforms" as the top priority for improving gender mainstreaming in climate policies. Other priorities include "enhanced data collection" (12%), "increased funding" (18%), and "awareness" (29%). These insights reflect the perceived needs for effective gender integration in climate strategies.

3.1.7.1 Emphasis on Policy Reforms

The most common recommendation (41%) is for policy reforms, indicating a strong recognition that existing policies need to be revised to better incorporate gender considerations. This

includes revising policy frameworks to create a more equitable system that acknowledges the unique needs and contributions of different gender groups in climate change contexts (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). One participant noted:

"Policies must evolve to reflect the importance of gender in climate action, ensuring that gender-responsive strategies are embedded throughout the policy process." –

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Respondent, September 2024

The main goal of policy changes should be to methodically incorporate gender viewpoints into the planning, execution, monitoring, and assessment phases of climate policy development (Agarwal, 2010). This may entail requiring gender analysis in climate plans and making sure that women's opinions are heard at all levels of decision-making. As one government official emphasized:

"To achieve real change, gender analysis should be a required part of every climate policy proposal, ensuring policies are truly inclusive." **Local Government of Ghana**

Respondent 1, September 2024

3.1.7.2 Importance of Enhanced Data Collection

While only 12% of respondents prioritized enhanced data collection, it remains a critical component for informed policy-making. Accurate, gender-disaggregated data is essential for understanding the different ways in which climate change impacts men and women. This information can guide the development of more targeted and effective interventions (Neumayer & Plümper, 2007). A civil society representative remarked:

"Data is the backbone of advocacy. Gender-disaggregated data can show the clear differences in how climate change affects women and men, helping to push for policies that respond to these disparities."– **Center for Green Growth Respondent 1,**

August 2024

Improved data collection is vital for identifying the specific vulnerabilities and roles of women in climate contexts. It provides evidence that can drive policy reforms and demonstrate the need for more gender-responsive climate actions (Kabeer, 2016).

3.1.7.3 The Need for Increased Funding

Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents emphasized the importance of increased funding for gender-focused climate initiatives. Financial resources are critical for translating well-designed policies into tangible action. Without adequate funding, even the best policies may fail to have a meaningful impact on the ground (Bennett, 2016).

Increased funding can support a variety of initiatives, including capacity-building programs, community-based adaptation projects, and research efforts that prioritize gender considerations. Such investments are necessary to enhance women's participation and empowerment in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts (Mastrorillo et al., 2016). As one respondent emphasized:

"Funding must be directed to projects that support women's leadership in climate action and ensure that gender issues are considered in every climate response." –

Women in Water, Sanitation and Climate Change, August 2024

3.1.7.4 Raising Awareness

With 29% of respondents emphasizing awareness, the importance of raising consciousness about gender in climate change is clear. Increased awareness can drive greater engagement with and support for gender mainstreaming initiatives, making it easier to implement policies that incorporate gender considerations.

Educational programs, awareness campaigns, and outreach to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public are necessary to highlight the critical role of gender in climate resilience. By fostering broader recognition of the importance of inclusive policies, these initia-

tives can help create a groundswell of support for gender mainstreaming in climate action (Denton, 2002).

3.1.7.5 Recommendations for a Holistic Approach

To effectively integrate gender into climate strategies, a holistic approach is needed. This approach should combine the priorities of policy reforms, data collection, increased funding, and awareness-raising initiatives. By addressing all of these areas simultaneously, gender considerations can be embedded at all levels of climate action (Zhou et al., 2019).

Collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities is essential to foster an inclusive dialogue that informs both policy and practice. As one NGO representative noted:

"Inclusive collaboration ensures that all voices are heard, particularly those of women, whose perspectives are often overlooked in traditional decision-making processes." - **Strategic Youth Network for Development Respondent 1, August 2024**

By working together, stakeholders can create comprehensive strategies that fully incorporate gender-sensitive approaches to climate change.

In summary, these recommendations advocate for a multi-pronged strategy that includes policy reforms, data collection, funding, and awareness-building. By adopting this approach, Ghana can improve gender mainstreaming in its climate policies, ensuring that women are not only considered but actively engaged in the design and implementation of climate solutions.

3.2 CORRELATION BETWEEN KEY THEMATIC AREAS

The correlations between gender, climate change, and policy effectiveness in Ghana are essential for crafting more inclusive and effective climate strategies. These relationships highlight how gender considerations are deeply intertwined with the success of climate

policies and the ability to address climate impacts in a way that is both equitable and effective. Below, the study explores the rationale behind these correlations:

3.2.1. Awareness and Relevance of Gender Mainstreaming

The strong correlation between participants' awareness of climate change policies and the recognition of the relevance of gender mainstreaming is significant because informed stakeholders are more likely to understand the importance of integrating gender in climate strategies. When individuals are aware of climate change's impact, they can better appreciate the need for policies that account for gender differences in vulnerability and capacity. This correlation emphasizes the need for raising awareness not just about climate change but also about the gendered dimensions of its effects. The more stakeholders understand climate policies, the more they recognize that gender-sensitive policies lead to better and more inclusive solutions.

3.2.2. Perception of Gender Impact and Need for Targeted Interventions

The recognition that climate change disproportionately affects women underscores the need for targeted interventions. The correlation between the perception that women are more vulnerable to climate change and the call for gender-specific interventions demonstrates a fundamental understanding that women's needs differ from those of men in climate response efforts. This relationship justifies the importance of gender-sensitive policies, as women's unique vulnerabilities—especially in sectors like agriculture and water management—require tailored, focused responses that acknowledge and address their specific challenges. It highlights the necessity of crafting interventions that specifically target and mitigate these vulnerabilities.

3.2.3. Importance of Gender-Disaggregated Data and Policy Effectiveness

The high emphasis on the importance of gender-disaggregated data (71%) reflects a clear understanding that effective policymaking relies on accurate and differentiated data. Without gender-specific data, policymakers risk overlooking the distinct impacts that climate change has on men and women. The correlation between the value placed on gender-disaggregated data and policy effectiveness underscores that robust data collection is foundational to designing climate policies that address both the general and gender-specific needs of communities. This relationship justifies investment in data collection as it enables the development of more informed, targeted, and responsive climate strategies.

3.2.4. Integration of Gender and Female Participation

The relationship between the partial integration of gender into climate strategies and moderate female participation in decision-making reflects a systemic issue in policy formulation. The fact that gender considerations are often only partially integrated into climate strategies means that women's representation and influence in decision-making processes are limited. This correlation suggests that greater integration of gender in policies would not only improve the responsiveness of these strategies but also enhance female participation. By fully integrating gender considerations, policies can create spaces for greater female representation and leadership in climate governance, which in turn can improve policy outcomes. This relationship highlights the importance of moving from partial inclusion to full integration of gender in all stages of climate policy development.

3.2.5. Support for Women-Led Initiatives and Policy Reforms

The correlation between support for policy reforms and financial support for women-led initiatives (41% for reforms, 71% for funding) points to the key role that women's leadership plays in driving innovative and effective climate responses. Prioritizing women's leadership,

empowerment, and financial backing can provide solutions that are not only innovative but also better suited to local realities. Supporting women with financing and policy changes can result in more sustainable and successful climate outcomes since they frequently have unique insights into community needs, sustainable behaviours, and climate adaptation tactics. This relationship supports the necessity of policies that give women's leadership and gender equality top priority in order to increase the efficacy of climate action.

3.2.6. Training and Capacity Building with Community Engagement

The overwhelming support for training and capacity building (94%) combined with community engagement (94%) highlights a relationship that underscores the importance of empowering individuals and communities through education and grassroots involvement. This connection illustrates that when women are educated and trained, especially within their communities, they can play an active role in climate adaptation and resilience-building. Community engagement ensures that the local knowledge, needs, and experiences are integrated into climate response strategies, and that women are equipped with the necessary skills to contribute meaningfully. This relationship justifies the investment in training programs and community involvement, as they are crucial for developing effective, bottom-up climate strategies that are inclusive and locally relevant.

3.2.7. Indigenous Knowledge and Gender Inclusion

The correlation between indigenous knowledge and gender inclusion is based on the idea that integrating local, traditional knowledge can enhance the effectiveness of climate policies, especially when it recognizes and empowers women's roles in environmental stewardship. Indigenous women often hold vast knowledge about sustainable land use, resource management, and climate adaptation strategies, which can be invaluable in shaping effective climate policies. The relationship between gender inclusion and indigenous knowledge underscores

the importance of community-based approaches, where women's traditional knowledge is seen as a critical asset. This connection justifies the incorporation of indigenous practices in policy development, ensuring that policies are culturally sensitive, locally appropriate, and gender inclusive.

These correlations reveal the interconnectedness of gender, climate change, and policy effectiveness. Understanding these relationships is crucial for developing climate policies that not only address climate change but also promote gender equality and social resilience. By recognizing and leveraging these interdependencies, policymakers can create more inclusive and effective climate strategies that not only tackle the climate crisis but also foster gender equity, leading to more sustainable and resilient communities.

3.3 CONCLUSION

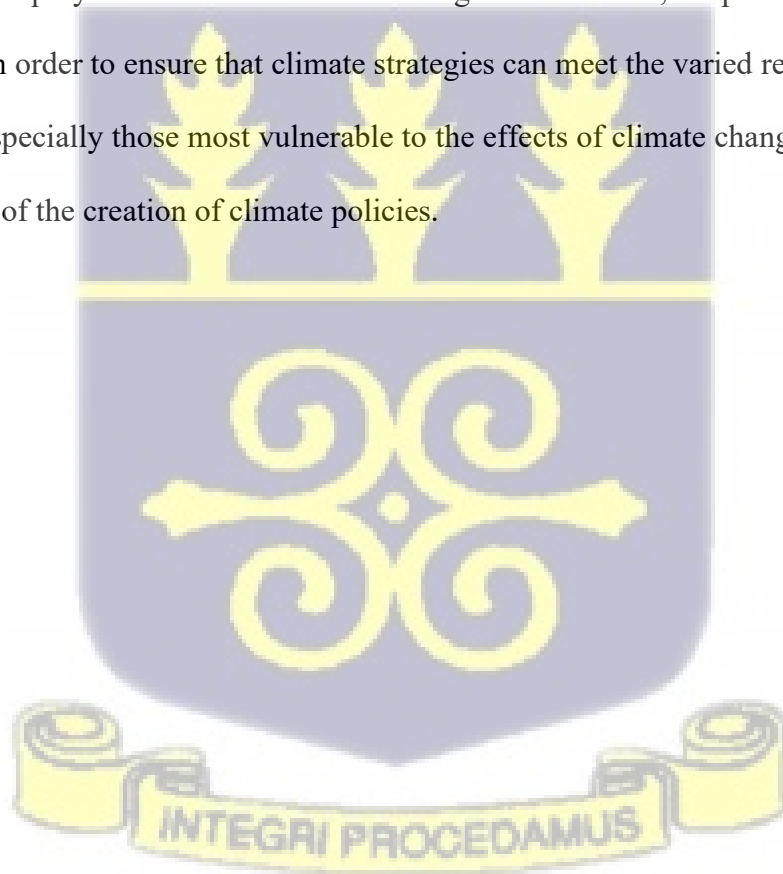
This chapter explored the key findings related to gender integration in climate policies and practices in Ghana, shedding light on the intricate relationships between gender, climate change, and policy effectiveness. Through examining stakeholder perspectives, it is clear that while progress has been made in acknowledging gender issues in climate change strategies, significant gaps remain in terms of full integration and implementation. The findings indicate that gender considerations are often partially integrated into policies, with ongoing challenges in ensuring comprehensive female participation in decision-making processes.

Key themes, such as the need for targeted gender-specific interventions, the importance of gender-disaggregated data, and the critical role of women's leadership in climate responses, have emerged as fundamental areas for policy improvement. The correlations between these areas further highlight how deeply interconnected gender equity and climate action are, suggesting that addressing one can significantly enhance the other. For instance, increasing awareness and integrating gender considerations into climate strategies can lead to better rep-

resentation and more effective climate policies that respond to the unique needs of different gender groups.

The recommendations presented, including the need for policy reforms, enhanced data collection, greater financial support for women-led initiatives, and increased community engagement, offer practical avenues for promoting gender mainstreaming in climate action. By taking a holistic and integrated approach, stakeholders can help ensure that climate policies are not only more inclusive but also more effective in addressing both the immediate and long-term challenges posed by climate change.

Ultimately, the research findings emphasize that gender-responsive climate policies are not just a matter of equity but are critical for achieving more resilient, adaptive, and sustainable communities. In order to ensure that climate strategies can meet the varied requirements of all stakeholders, especially those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, gender should be at the centre of the creation of climate policies.



CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

The necessity for all-encompassing, inclusive, and efficient solutions has been brought to light by the growing awareness of climate change as a worldwide concern. In order to ensure that the effects of climate change are addressed fairly, gender mainstreaming in climate change policy is crucial, paying special attention to the varying vulnerabilities and capacities of men and women. This chapter provides an overview of the study's key findings, draws conclusions from these findings, and offers actionable recommendations to strengthen gender integration in climate policies in Ghana. It aims to provide insights for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners on how gender-sensitive approaches can enhance climate action strategies.

4.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Based on the major research findings, the research results were summarized to address the research questions of the study. This is presented in the subsections below.

4.1.1 To what extent are gender considerations integrated into Ghana's national climate change strategies and policies?

The study reveals that while there has been some progress in integrating gender considerations into Ghana's national climate change strategies and policies, the integration remains partial rather than comprehensive. Most respondents felt that gender is somewhat included, with many indicating that gender considerations are not fully embedded in the existing climate change policies. The recognition of the importance of gender mainstreaming is evident, but the current state of policy integration indicates a gap between awareness and practical implementation. Gender-sensitive policies and interventions are needed to ensure

that both women's and men's distinct vulnerabilities to climate change are addressed equitably. To fully integrate gender into national climate change strategies, policies need to move beyond partial inclusion and ensure that gender considerations are systematically woven into all aspects of climate governance and action plans.

4.1.2 What are the key challenges and barriers to effective gender mainstreaming in Ghana's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts?

The results have revealed a number of significant obstacles and difficulties to successful gender mainstreaming in Ghana's attempts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The low level of female engagement in climate action decision-making is one of the main obstacles. The integration of gender views in climate governance is hampered by the low proportion of women in leadership positions, notwithstanding their partial involvement. Furthermore, there is a dearth of thorough gender-disaggregated data to support efficient policy creation. Without this information, policies might not take into account the unique needs and vulnerabilities of various gender groups, which could result in less focused and successful interventions. Another significant barrier is the insufficient funding and resources allocated to gender-responsive climate projects. Women-led initiatives, particularly in vulnerable communities, often struggle to secure the necessary financial support to build resilience and implement adaptation strategies. Furthermore, traditional gender norms and cultural practices may also limit women's access to decision-making spaces and climate-related resources, exacerbating their vulnerability to climate change. Overcoming these barriers requires systemic change, including enhancing women's participation in climate governance, increasing financial resources for gender-focused climate projects, and fostering an enabling environment for gender equality in climate action.

4.1.3 How can Ghana's climate change policies be improved to ensure more inclusive and equitable outcomes for both women and men, particularly in vulnerable communities?

A number of essential strategies should be put into practice in order to enhance Ghana's climate change policies and guarantee more inclusive and equitable results. In order to understand how climate change impacts men and women differently and to enable customised actions, it is first necessary to integrate gender-disaggregated data. Second, policies need to be changed to put women's empowerment and gender equality first, guaranteeing that women actively participate in leadership and decision-making related to climate change. Third, increased funding for women-led climate initiatives, especially in vulnerable communities, is critical for supporting resilience-building efforts. Additionally, raising awareness about the importance of gender mainstreaming through public campaigns can foster broader support for gender-inclusive policies. Lastly, empowering women through training and capacity-building in climate-related fields will equip them to lead and contribute to solutions. These strategies will help create more inclusive climate policies, addressing the unique needs of both women and men, particularly in vulnerable communities, and ensuring equitable outcomes.

4.2 CONCLUSION

This study has explored the integration of gender considerations into climate change policies and strategies in Ghana, providing valuable insights into the extent to which gender is addressed in climate change governance and the challenges that hinder effective gender mainstreaming. The findings reveal that while there is considerable awareness of the gendered impacts of climate change, and gender mainstreaming is viewed as highly relevant, the integration of gender into national climate policies remains partial. Despite some efforts

to incorporate gender considerations, significant gaps remain, particularly in terms of policy implementation, data collection, and female participation in climate decision-making.

The barriers identified in this study ranging from insufficient gender-disaggregated data and limited financial support for women-led initiatives, to low female participation in leadership roles highlight the systemic challenges that must be addressed to ensure gender equality in climate action. The findings suggest that addressing these challenges will require both policy reforms and practical interventions that prioritize gender equality, enhance female participation, and increase financial support for gender-responsive climate strategies.

For Ghana's climate change policies to be truly inclusive and equitable, they must integrate gender considerations more comprehensively at every level of policy design, implementation, and evaluation. This entails enhancing the gathering and application of gender-disaggregated data, guaranteeing increased funding for climate projects led by women, and encouraging increased female involvement in decision-making. To enable women and communities to lead and participate in climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, there is also a need for ongoing awareness-raising and capacity-building.

Incorporating gender into climate change policies is essential to attaining sustainable and successful climate action, in addition to being a social justice issue. Gender concerns must be ingrained in all facets of climate policy and practice in Ghana in order to increase resilience to climate change and ensure an equitable future for all of its residents. In addition to laying the groundwork for future initiatives to mainstream gender in climate change policies, this study emphasises the significance of ongoing research, advocacy, and action to guarantee inclusive, equitable, and transformative climate change solutions.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends the following based on its findings:

4.3.1 Overcome Gender Gaps in Environmental Leadership

Addressing gender gaps in environmental leadership is crucial for effective climate governance. Initiatives to promote women's participation in leadership positions within environmental and climate organizations can lead to more equitable and inclusive decision-making processes. This can involve mentorship programs, training in leadership skills, and policies that promote gender equity in governance structures (Bennett, 2016).

4.3.2 Integrate Gender Analysis in Policy Development

Gendered perspectives are crucial for understanding how climate change disproportionately affects men and women. A systematic approach will enable policies to address these disparities effectively (UN Women, 2016). It is imperative to ensure that all climate change policies undergo a gender analysis during the formulation phase. This can be achieved by establishing a guideline for gender-sensitive policy formulation that identifies the specific needs, roles, and impacts on different genders.

4.3.3 Promote Women's Participation in Climate Decision-Making

Women often hold valuable local knowledge that can inform sustainable practices. Their involvement can lead to more comprehensive and effective climate strategies (Fisher et al., 2018). It would be prudent to create quotas or dedicated spaces for women in local and national climate decision-making bodies. Encourage the participation of women's groups in climate action initiatives and policy dialogues.

4.3.4 Enhance Access to Climate Finance for Women

Access to financial resources is a significant barrier for women in implementing climate solutions. Targeted funding can empower women and improve community resilience (Oxfam, 2019). Develop targeted funding mechanisms that support women-led initiatives in climate

adaptation and mitigation. This includes micro-financing and grants specifically aimed at women's cooperatives and organizations.

4.3.5 Capacity Building and Training Programs

Improving the abilities and information required for women to take part in climate action requires education. According to the Ghanaian Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (2020), training can provide people the skills they need to manage resources responsibly. Put in place ongoing education and training initiatives that are especially suited for women and under-represented groups and that address disaster risk reduction, sustainable agriculture, and climate change adaptation.

4.3.6 Develop Gender-Sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

Monitoring gender outcomes will provide critical insights into the effectiveness of climate policies and enable adjustments where needed (Ghana National Gender Policy, 2015). Establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks that specifically track gender-related indicators within climate policies. This can include metrics on women's participation, impacts on livelihoods, and access to resources.

4.3.7 Increase Public Awareness and Advocacy on Gender and Climate Issues

Public awareness can shift societal attitudes, reduce stereotypes, and foster an environment where gender equality in climate action is prioritized (UN, 2015). Launch national campaigns to raise awareness about the intersection of gender and climate change. Engage media, community leaders, and educational institutions in advocacy efforts.

4.3.8 Utilizing Indigenous Knowledge for Inclusion

Leveraging indigenous knowledge in climate policies is a powerful way to ensure women's inclusion. Indigenous women often hold critical knowledge about sustainable land and resource management. Integrating this knowledge into formal climate strategies can enhance

community resilience while also respecting cultural practices. Policymakers should create mechanisms for the meaningful participation of indigenous women in climate discussions and decision-making processes (Agarwal, 2010).

4.4 AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

While this study has provided valuable insights into the integration of gender considerations in Ghana's climate change policies, several areas require further exploration to enhance understanding and drive improvements in gender-responsive climate action. Future research can build on the findings of this study and address the following areas:

4.4.1 Impact of Gender Mainstreaming on Local Climate Adaptation Strategies

Future research could explore the long-term impact of gender-responsive climate policies and interventions at the community level, particularly in rural and marginalized areas. This would involve studying how the integration of gender considerations in local climate adaptation strategies affects community resilience, resource access, and decision-making. Case studies of communities where gender mainstreaming has been actively implemented could provide valuable lessons and inform best practices for scaling up such efforts in other areas.

4.4.2 Evaluating the Effectiveness of Gender-Responsive Climate Policies

Evaluating the effectiveness of gender-responsive climate policies is essential to determine their impact and improve policy design. Future research could focus on the evaluation of existing policies, analyzing how effectively they address gender-specific vulnerabilities to climate change. This would include assessing both the short- and long-term impacts of such policies on women's access to resources, economic opportunities, and participation in climate governance.

4.4.3 Gender-Responsive Financial Mechanisms in Climate Action

Given the critical role that financial resources play in addressing climate change, research could focus on the design and effectiveness of gender-responsive financial mechanisms for climate adaptation and mitigation. This includes examining how international climate finance flows are allocated, how they reach women, and how financial mechanisms can be better designed to support women-led climate initiatives and projects. Research in this area would be crucial for ensuring that funding for climate action is distributed equitably and reaches those most affected by climate change.

4.4.4 Interlinkages Between Climate Change, Migration, and Gender

Migration is often an adaptation strategy in response to climate change, but it can have gendered impacts. Future research could explore how climate-induced migration affects women and men differently, particularly in terms of their access to resources, security, and livelihoods. Understanding the gender dynamics of climate-induced migration will help policymakers design more inclusive solutions that ensure the protection and empowerment of both women and men in migration contexts.

Scholars, decision-makers, and practitioners can get a deeper comprehension of the intricate connections between gender and climate change by focussing on these topics for future study. In order to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from climate solutions, this research will aid in the improvement and reinforcement of gender-responsive climate policy. In the end, it will support more sustainable and equitable climate action, fostering a future in which everyone—male or female—can prosper in the face of climate change.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Semi-Structured Interview Guide

Questionnaire: Gender Mainstreaming in Strategies and Policies Addressing Climate Change, The Case of Ghana.

This questionnaire explores the various dimensions, including awareness, implementation, impacts, and challenges related to gender and climate change policies. It aims to gather insights into how gender is integrated into climate change strategies and policies in Ghana. Your responses will contribute to understanding the effectiveness of these approaches and identifying areas for improvement.

Demographic Information:

1. Name:
2. Position/Title:
3. Organization:
4. Email Address (optional):

Section 1: Awareness and Understanding

1. How aware are you of Ghana's climate change policies?
 - a. Very aware
 - b. Somewhat aware
 - c. Not aware at all
2. How would you rate your understanding of gender mainstreaming in the context of climate change in Ghana?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Poor
 - e. No understanding



3. In your opinion, which gender group is most affected by climate change in Ghana?
4. Do you believe that gender is adequately addressed in these policies?
5. How often do you encounter gender-specific issues in climate change discussions?
 - a. Very often
 - b. Often
 - c. Occasionally
 - d. Rarely
 - e. Never

Section 2: Policy and Strategy Integration

6. In your opinion, how relevant is gender mainstreaming to effective climate change strategies?

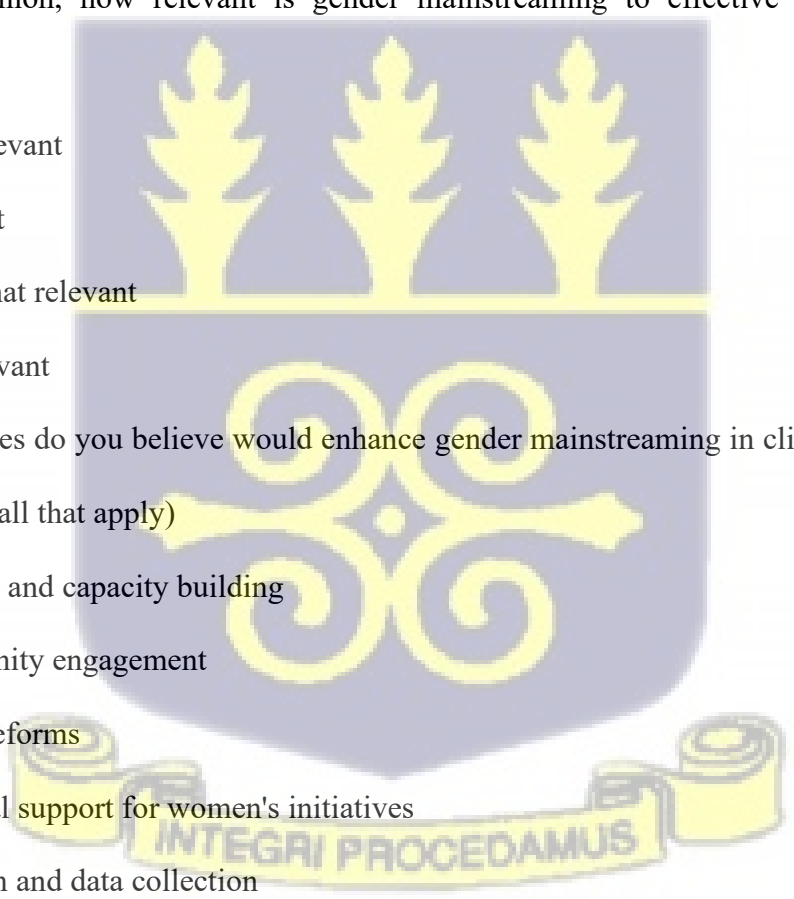
- a. Very relevant
- b. Relevant
- c. Somewhat relevant
- d. Not relevant

7. What strategies do you believe would enhance gender mainstreaming in climate policies in Ghana? (Select all that apply)

- a. Training and capacity building
- b. Community engagement
- c. Policy reforms
- d. Financial support for women's initiatives
- e. Research and data collection
- f. Other (please specify)

8. What aspect of gender is most crucial in climate change policies?

- a. Women's representation



- b. Women's access to resources
- c. Gender-sensitive data
- d. Gender-based impacts

9. In your view, who should lead gender mainstreaming efforts in climate policy?

10. What tools do you think are most effective for gender mainstreaming in climate policies?

(Select all that apply)

- a. Gender analysis frameworks
- b. Training programs
- c. Stakeholder consultations
- d. Policy reviews

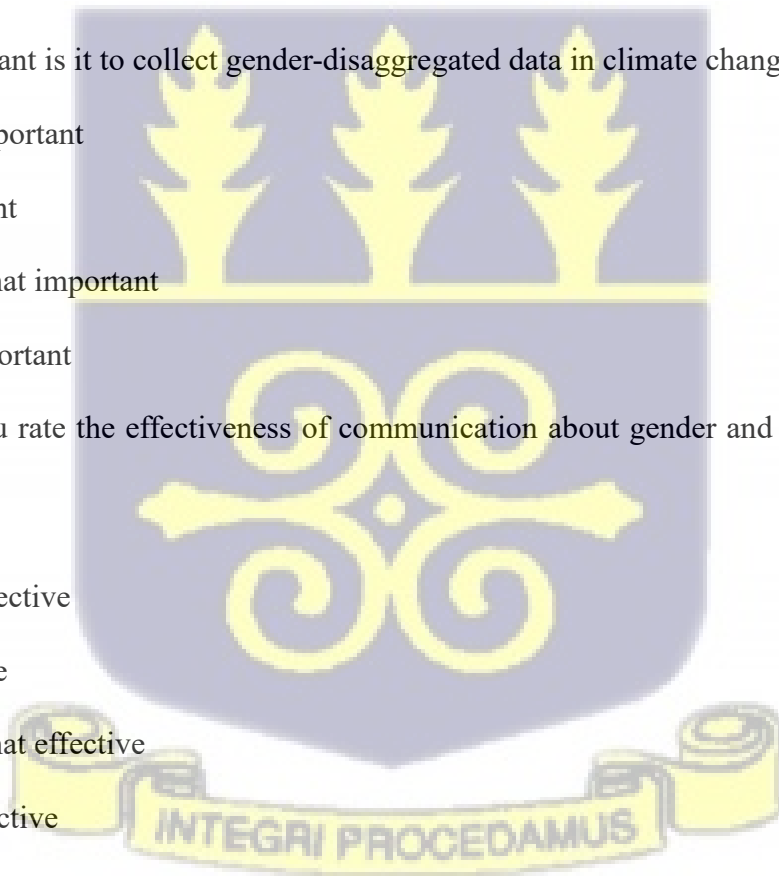
11. How important is it to collect gender-disaggregated data in climate change research?

- a. Very important
- b. Important
- c. Somewhat important
- d. Not important

12. How do you rate the effectiveness of communication about gender and climate issues in Ghana?

- a. Very effective
- b. Effective
- c. Somewhat effective
- d. Not effective

13. Can you provide examples of specific climate change strategies or policies in Ghana that have successfully incorporated gender considerations?



Section 3: Implementation

14. To what extent are gender considerations incorporated into climate change strategies and policies in Ghana?

- a. Fully integrated
- b. Partially integrated
- c. Not integrated
- d. Don't know

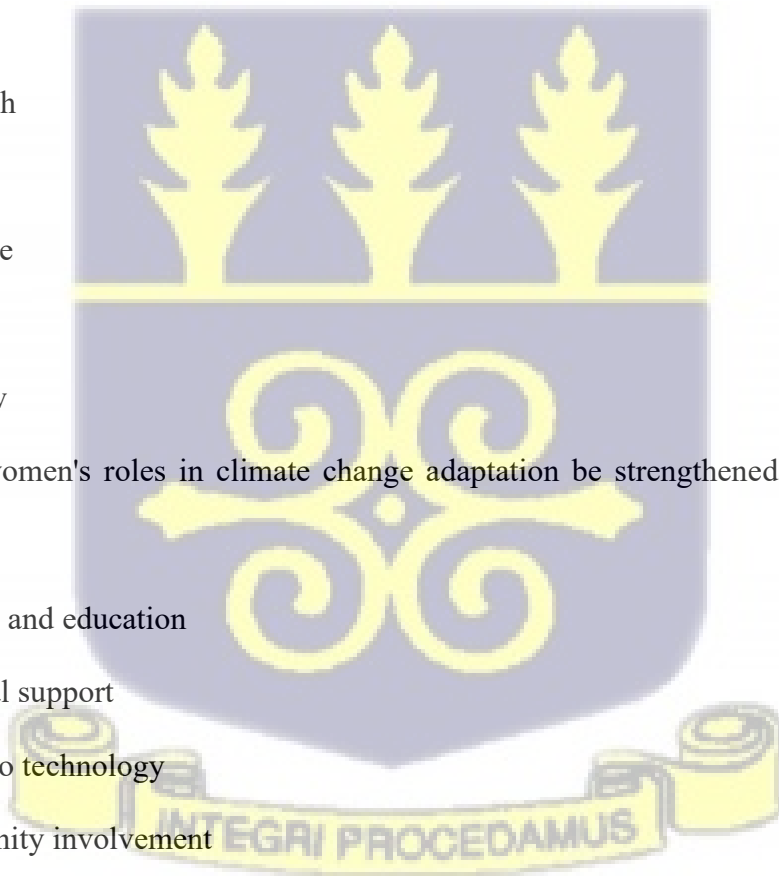
15. How effectively are gender-inclusive climate change policies implemented in practice?

16. How would you rate the level of female participation in climate-related decision-making in Ghana?

- a. Very high
- b. High
- c. Moderate
- d. Low
- e. Very low

17. How can women's roles in climate change adaptation be strengthened? (Select all that apply)

- a. Training and education
- b. Financial support
- c. Access to technology
- d. Community involvement
- e. Other (specify)



18. Are there adequate resources available for organizations working on gender and climate issues?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Section 4: Challenges and Barriers

19. What barriers do you think exist in implementing gender-sensitive climate policies?

(Select all that apply)

- a. Lack of awareness
- b. Insufficient funding
- c. Cultural beliefs
- d. Inadequate representation of women
- e. Lack of data disaggregated by gender
- f. Other (please specify)

20. What is the primary barrier to gender mainstreaming in climate policies?

Section 5: Recommendations and Future Directions

21. What would you recommend as the top priority for improving gender mainstreaming in climate policies in Ghana?

- a. Policy reform
- b. Increased funding
- c. Awareness campaigns
- d. Enhanced data collection
- e. Other (please specify)

22. Are there any specific areas or sectors where gender mainstreaming is particularly critical for climate change adaptation and mitigation?

Section 6: Additional Comments

23. Do you have any additional comments or insights regarding gender mainstreaming and climate change policies in Ghana?

(Open text box for responses)

