



Step Change webinars: Dynamics of Locally Led Adaptation from the Global South.

Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Reflections on Locally led adaptation dynamics from the global South perspective	3
2.1 The role of intermediaries in locally led adaptation: Experiences navigating the spaces between being enablers and barriers	4
Challenges and Recommendations for Locally Led Adaptation.....	6
2.2 A journey toward Effective ethical practice in Knowledge brokering.....	7
2.3 Overcoming blockages to decentralized adaptation finance: What role(s) can knowledge brokers play	8
Challenges and Opportunities.....	9
2.4 Enabling equitable Southern leadership: innovations, challenges and the road to accelerating local climate action	10
Challenges and Opportunities of Southern Leadership.....	11
2.5 Tackling equitable gender equity and social inclusion in climate action	12
Challenges and Lessons in Integrating GESI into Policy and Practice	14
Conclusion.....	15
References	16

1.0 Introduction

The impacts of climate change are already being felt around the worldⁱ. Vulnerable and marginalized communities are disproportionately being affected, and these impacts will increase in magnitude and intensity in the coming yearsⁱⁱ. An inclusive response is therefore needed to accelerate climate action, bearing in mind that local communities have a key role to play in leading adaptation effortsⁱⁱⁱ. The [Step Change Initiative](#), which is a Canada-Netherlands partnership aimed at driving equitable and inclusive locally led adaptation is therefore focusing on priority adaptation areas and responding to critical capacity strengthening needs of these vulnerable communities.

The initiative enhances the integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion(GESI) in policies and practice to achieve climate-resilient development; supports the implementation of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation(EBA) to build the resilience of climate-affected communities; improves access to equitable finance for climate-resilient development that enables locally led solutions; strengthens the capacity of climate knowledge brokers to support Locally Led Adaptation(LLA) and enhances the capacity of key actors to use knowledge and implement locally led adaptation. The Step Change initiative aims to improve the quality of life and resilience of the most climate-affected people, by creating a vibrant, capacitated and impactful community of actors driving locally led adaptation.

To achieve this, the initiative is supporting several projects across the world, with seven of them being supported across Africa, to grow the number of organizations closing knowledge to action gaps and driving Locally Led Adaptation. They include:

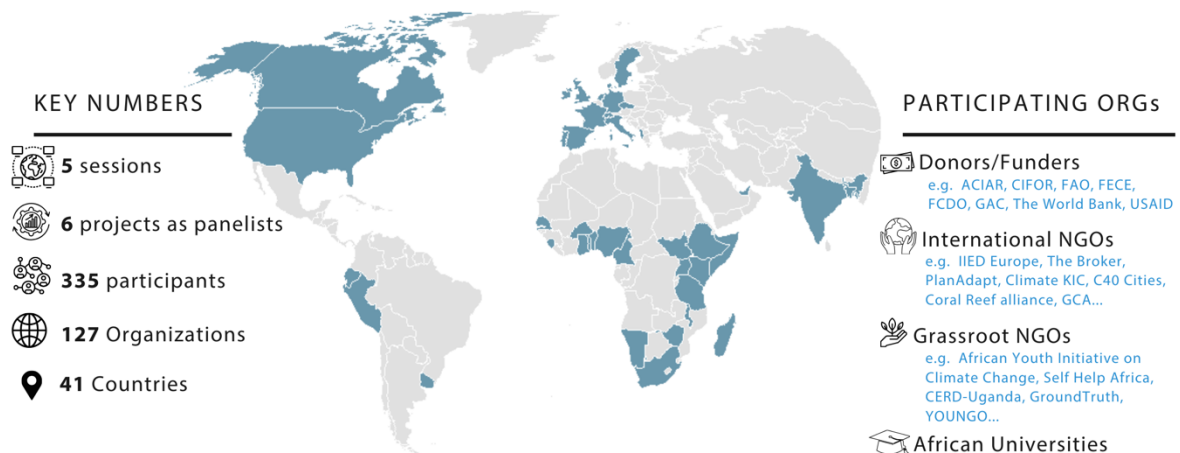
Project	Description
Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)	CDKN is a global network led by SouthSouthNorth , in partnership with Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) and ICLEI South Asia . It works to improve the well-being of the most vulnerable people in the Global South, through transformative climate-resilient action. It works to mobilise knowledge, leadership and capacity in the Global South, from local to global levels.
Strengthening the capacity of the extension system to use knowledge to sustain equitable locally led adaptation among smallholder farmers	Aims to strengthen the capacity of the extension system as a knowledge broker to transfer proven knowledge, information and technology to farmers to boost their productivity and resilience, while integrating equitable and inclusive LLA strategies into the extension system to ensure that these approaches are co-designed and sustained by the local people
BAOBAB: synthesis program for African research on climate change,	A project that is mobilizing and providing technical and capacity-strengthening support to six-African-led transdisciplinary teams to synthesize existing data and knowledge on climate change risks and response options, to advance scientific discoveries and best practices from the already existing data

<u>Brokering Innovation for Decentralized Climate Finance and Gender Equality (BRIDGE)</u>	Aims to improve access by subnational stakeholders to finance for LLA and gender-responsive climate change adaptation in Cameroon, with learnings scaled to the central African region and beyond.
<u>Locally led adaptation metrics for Africa (LAMA)</u>	Aims to co-produce adaptation metrics with local stakeholders, including vulnerable small-scale farmers, in Kenya and Benin. It aims to identify the priority adaptation needs of vulnerable groups and the relevant metrics and adaptation interventions.
<u>Building community resilience through strengthening agricultural adaptation knowledge systems in Uganda (CRAKS)</u>	Seeks to build community resilience through adaptation knowledge brokering in Uganda, focusing on semi-arid areas of the cattle corridor which experience persistent extreme weather events
<u>Decentralizing climate funds to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities</u>	Aims to build the capacity of local administrations in the Kaffrine region and Senegal's national administration to implement decentralized climate funds and locally led adaptation to improve the resilience of the communities' resilience to climate change.
<u>Mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in climate action for adaptation</u>	Aims to build stakeholder capacity and knowledge sharing on EBA through radio broadcasts, training and knowledge-sharing frameworks in targeted regions in Burkina Faso. In particular, the project supports radio stations in the production and co-creation of participatory radio series and the use of information and communication technologies.

2.0 Reflections on Locally led adaptation dynamics from the global South perspective

The Step Change webinar series therefore provides a great opportunity for these projects to learn on the various topics as well as serve as a foundation for bringing a collective voice to spaces like the Conference of Parties (COP).

Step Change webinar series 2024



The webinar series was tailored around five topics namely:

- The role of intermediaries in locally led adaptation: Experiences navigating the spaces between being enablers and barriers.
- A journey toward effective ethical practice in knowledge brokering.
- Overcoming blockages to decentralized adaptation finance: The role(s) knowledge brokers can play.
- Enabling equitable Southern leadership: innovations, challenges and the road to local climate action.
- Towards inclusive locally led adaptation: challenging barriers and social norms in African countries.

2.1 The role of intermediaries in locally led adaptation: Experiences navigating the spaces between being enablers and barriers

Intermediaries play a crucial role in climate change adaptation by facilitating the flow of information, resources, and knowledge between various stakeholders^{iv}. They act as bridges between policymakers, scientists, communities, and businesses, helping to identify adaptation needs, develop and implement effective strategies, and build resilience to climate change-related impacts. Intermediaries can also provide technical assistance, capacity-building, and financial support to vulnerable communities, enabling them to adapt to changing climate conditions and mitigate potential risks^v.

This webinar explored the role of intermediaries in LLA and how organizations are navigating their roles as intermediaries. It delved into the questions that organizations are tackling and the choices they are making to support local leadership. The webinar provided an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of organizations that are

supporting LLA at different scales of operation. This session aimed to offer an opportunity for honest reflection on the challenges that Step Change partners are struggling with, the lessons that are being learned and how decisions are being made to enhance a positive move forward.

Various projects shared their experiences with intermediaries. It was emphasized that inclusive project design is crucial for accelerating locally led adaptation (LLA), particularly by connecting communities to local governments, as demonstrated by the Building Community Resilience through Strengthening Agricultural Adaptation Knowledge Systems in Uganda (CRAKS) project. Through their knowledge-to-action grants, CDKN shared efforts to provide funding at the grassroots levels. Additionally, the LAMA project is assisting in identifying locally derived metrics for adaptation and scaling up this knowledge nationally. To ensure sustained impact and relationships with communities, the SCALE project highlighted the importance of extension officers serving as intermediaries within their communities.

Africa is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions^{vi}. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and hindering development efforts^{vii}. Urgent climate support is essential to help African countries adapt to these challenges, build resilience, and achieve sustainable development goals^{viii}. This support should include investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, clean energy technologies, climate-smart agriculture, and capacity building for climate adaptation planning and implementation^x. The need for urgent climate change adaptation support in Kenya came out strongly as evidenced by the high number of applications received from the country.

Agriculture and food security are critical priority areas for climate change adaptation^x. This is due to their direct vulnerability to these climate impacts. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts and floods pose significant threats to agricultural production and food systems^{xi}. These changes can lead to crop failures, reduced yields, and increased food prices, affecting both farmers and consumers^{xii}. This was emphasized during this webinar and the significance in sustaining livelihoods and economic development.

Despite the growing recognition of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and marginalized communities, many financial institutions continue to prioritize short-term profits over long-term sustainability^{xiii}. This often leads to investment decisions that perpetuate existing gender inequalities and fail to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of vulnerable populations^{xiv}. As a result, women and marginalized communities are often excluded from decision-making processes and have limited access to the financial resources necessary to build resilience to climate change^{xv}. This gap was emphasized during the webinar which underscores the importance of addressing these issues to ensure equitable and effective adaptation efforts. Additionally, the need to integrate gender considerations into adaptation

planning and implementation was highlighted. This is crucial for ensuring that adaptation efforts address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different gender groups.

Traditional and Indigenous knowledge offer valuable insights into climate adaptation, grounded in centuries of lived experience and close interaction with the environment^{xvi}. These communities possess a deep understanding of local ecosystems, weather patterns, and resource management strategies that are often finely tuned to withstand environmental changes^{xvii}. By integrating this knowledge with modern science, climate adaptation strategies can be more inclusive, and effective in addressing local and global climate challenges^{xviii}. The important role of this indigenous knowledge which is often overlooked despite its potential to inform effective adaptation strategies was acknowledged during this webinar.

Challenges and Recommendations for Locally Led Adaptation

Differences between national and subnational indicators often create significant challenges for advocating for locally-driven climate adaptation^{xix}. At the national level, indicators tend to focus on broad, aggregated data, which may overlook the specific vulnerabilities and needs of local communities. Subnational indicators, on the other hand, often reflect the unique social, economic, and environmental contexts of local regions. However, the lack of alignment between these two levels of data results in gaps and difficulties in scaling or integrating local priorities into national adaptation planning^{xx}. This misalignment hinders the ability to effectively advocate for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) because national decision-makers may not fully prioritize local adaptation needs, which are critical for addressing climate impacts in a more targeted and equitable manner. This mismatch was elaborated as a pressing issue which should be addressed by aligning existing frameworks with local needs rather than relying solely on international goals.

Local languages have substantial cultural significance in many places, and they have an impact on how people perceive and respond to the effects of climate change^{xxi}. Ignoring these linguistic differences might lead to misunderstandings, a reduction in community involvement, and ineffective adaptation techniques. Beyond language, other factors like local knowledge systems, social norms, and governance structures also shape how communities perceive and implement adaptation initiatives^{xxii}. Customizing interventions to align with these contextual realities ensures that adaptation measures are not only relevant but also embraced and sustained by the communities they are designed to support^{xxiii}. This approach was stressed to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of adaptation strategies, thereby fostering stronger local ownership and resilience.

A common theme across all speaker presentations was the crucial role of intermediaries in climate change adaptation efforts. These intermediaries operate at various scales, from local communities to regional and national levels. It was

emphasized that a significant amount of valuable knowledge is being generated within communities. This underscores the importance of co-creation processes that ensure the voices of local people are integrated into the design and implementation of adaptation interventions.

Based on the discussions, three key takeaways emerged for effective climate change adaptation: strengthening the functionality of intermediaries, ensuring they have clearly defined outcomes and specific actions, and the important role that the LAMA platform can play in enhancing connectivity and knowledge exchange. These takeaways emphasize the need for a more coordinated and purposeful approach to intermediary support, focusing on harnessing local expertise and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders. By addressing these critical areas, we can significantly improve the effectiveness of intermediaries in driving adaptation efforts and building resilience to climate change.

2.2 A journey toward Effective ethical practice in Knowledge brokering

Ethical practice in knowledge brokering involves ensuring that the sharing and exchange of knowledge is conducted in a responsible, fair, and transparent manner^{xxiv}. This includes respecting intellectual property rights, protecting sensitive information, and avoiding conflicts of interest. Ethical knowledge brokers prioritize the needs and interests of all stakeholders involved, including communities, researchers and policymakers^{xxv}. By doing this, they strive to build trust and credibility by maintaining open communication, promoting collaboration, and ensuring that knowledge is accessible and relevant to the needs of those it is intended for.

This webinar offered insights into CDKN's journey toward integrating ethical practices into their programs. By building upon research ethics, they have navigated a range of evolving responsibilities at local, national, regional, and global levels. They have addressed the need to cultivate ethical common sense among all staff, utilizing a community of practice model, and have tackled the challenge of ensuring legal compliance with research ethics in sub-grants. However, they have encountered ethical dilemmas involving global actors and locally led projects they support. The webinar presentation was guided by the following questions

- a) Are research ethics, guidelines and protocols appropriate in knowledge brokering projects?
- b) What is different about knowledge brokering initiatives, and therefore what is the ethics challenge?
- c) How can research ethics be adapted to these contexts, what are the limits, and what are the alternatives?

These questions were guided by the rationale that, unlike research projects, which often contain a predefined methodology and set of stakeholders, knowledge brokering projects are demand-driven and unpredictable in terms of pre-defined activities^{xxvi}. Knowledge brokering efforts are also often led by Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs), which are small and lack established research ethics protocols.

It is critical to recognize that ethical commitments vary across different contexts^{xxvii}. Ethical frameworks therefore play an important role in guiding climate change adaptation efforts by providing a moral compass for decision-making and ensuring that actions are just, equitable, and sustainable^{xxviii}. They help to address the complex ethical dilemmas arising from climate change, such as the distribution of benefits and burdens, the protection of vulnerable populations, and the long-term consequences of adaptation strategies^{xxix}. By incorporating ethical considerations into adaptation planning and implementation, decision-makers can ensure that climate actions are aligned with societal values and promote intergenerational equity. Among the efforts to uphold ethical practices that were elaborated was the development of ethical protocols and integrating them into different projects. Another key focus was on the embedding of personal accountability within programs and individual team members. The importance of acknowledging the diverse realities and experiences in different regions emerged as an important point in promoting ethics in knowledge brokering.

Art has the potential to be a powerful driver for sustainable development by raising awareness, inspiring action, and fostering community engagement^{xxx}. Through its ability to evoke emotions, challenge perspectives, and tell compelling stories, art can effectively communicate complex environmental issues and inspire individuals to take action. Furthermore, art can serve as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, bringing together diverse stakeholders to discuss and address sustainability challenges^{xxxi}. It was reinforced during this session that integrating artistic expression into climate change adaptation initiatives can enhance sustainable development.

A common theme that was noted among the speakers was the ongoing challenge of ensuring ethical conduct when working with diverse target audiences in the context of climate change adaptation. This highlights the need for careful consideration of ethical principles and their application in various settings.

Based on the discussions during the webinar, one of the main takeaways was the question of how to maintain the integrity and ethical standards of work across different contexts. This raised important follow-up questions about the factors that influence ethical decision-making and the strategies that can be employed to ensure ethical behaviour across different projects.

2.3 Overcoming blockages to decentralized adaptation finance: What role(s) can knowledge brokers play

Decentralized adaptation finance blockages often arise due to challenges in accessing funds, limited institutional capacity, and coordination failures among different stakeholders^{xxxii}. These barriers can hinder the effective implementation of climate adaptation projects at the local level.

This webinar explored concrete efforts to facilitate access to quality finance for locally led adaptation. The panellists shared their experiences of tensions at different levels of governance in efforts to decentralize adaptation finance and identified the blockages

they encountered in their efforts. This webinar discussion was guided by the following questions:

- a) What does it mean to be a broker in efforts to decentralize adaptation finance?
- b) What kinds of roles do brokers play?
- c) What challenges do brokers confront, and how are they dealing with these challenges?

These questions were based on the rationale that, in all cases, knowledge brokers tend to be engaged in efforts toward system-wide change, and are therefore exploring various forms of co-creation processes at various scales, from local levels to global levels, that attempt to tackle power dynamics that restrict finance from flowing to where it is needed most^{xxxiii}.

Intermediaries play a significant role in overcoming these blockages by facilitating access to finance, providing technical assistance, and building trust among different actors^{xxxiv}. By acting as bridges between funders, implementing agencies, and communities, intermediaries also help to ensure that adaptation finance is allocated efficiently and effectively, leading to more resilient and sustainable outcomes^{xxxv}.

There have been concrete ongoing efforts to mobilize local finance for climate change adaptation initiatives which was highlighted. A key focus was on the role of knowledge brokers in building relationships and supporting key actors in unlocking financial resources. Understanding the criteria for accessing various financial facilities was identified as crucial for successful funding applications.

The Brokering Innovation for Decentralized Climate Finance and Gender Equality (BRIDGE) initiative, elaborated their contribution to increasing awareness of adaptation finance facilities and fostering dialogue among stakeholders.

Challenges and Opportunities

Complicated formalities, disparate decision-making processes, and a lack of flexibility in responding to new needs are frequently observed in multilateral climate change financing^{xxxvi}. These complexities hinder the effective delivery of financial resources to support adaptation efforts in developing countries. Capacity building is therefore essential to address these challenges by equipping governments, civil society organizations, and private sector actors with the knowledge necessary to navigate multilateral funding mechanisms^{xxxvii}. By strengthening capacity at all levels, countries can enhance their ability to access and utilize multilateral climate finance, thereby contributing to more ambitious and effective climate action.

These challenges in mobilizing local finance were emphasized, including the complexities of multilateral financing and the need for capacity building. The collaborative approach of co-creating project proposals was discussed as an effective step in leveraging climate finance, as well as peer-to-peer learning and collaboration among countries.

The commitment of subnational governments in Kenya to provide reliable finance through the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Program for climate action was highlighted, which empowers communities to determine their climate priorities and ensures the sustainability of funded projects through the involvement of community committees.

The importance of co-production over traditional in-and-out technical assistance, and the value of peer-to-peer learning came out as an important aspect. This highlights the need for collaborative approaches and knowledge exchange in climate change adaptation efforts.

Based on the webinar discussions, three key takeaways for future action were identified. Ongoing capacity building within communities to ensure their effective participation in climate adaptation initiatives, active engagement of communities and various experts throughout the project design phase to tailor interventions to local needs, and fostering collaboration among different stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of climate adaptation efforts. These takeaways highlight the importance of a participatory and inclusive approach to climate adaptation, with a focus on building local capacity and ensuring that interventions are aligned with community priorities.

2.4 Enabling equitable Southern leadership: innovations, challenges and the road to accelerating local climate action

Enabling equitable Southern leadership in climate action requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both systemic challenges and innovative solutions^{xxxviii}. Key innovations include fostering local knowledge and expertise, strengthening regional collaboration, and promoting access to finance and technology. However, challenges such as limited resources, institutional barriers, and historical inequities persist. To accelerate local climate action, it is essential to invest in capacity building and support and create enabling environments that empower Southern leaders to drive sustainable and just transitions^{xxxix}. By addressing these challenges and capitalizing on the potential of innovative solutions, we can foster a more equitable and resilient future.

This webinar provided an opportunity to reflect and exchange ideas on innovations, challenges and the road to local climate action. Partnerships in general in the climate adaptation space are complex since they involve different systems and power dynamics. The journey towards Southern equitable partnerships therefore comes with its particular challenges but can lead to Southern leadership, inclusion and more equitable outcomes. Based on this, this webinar session answered the following questions:

- a) What are the challenges of Southern equitable partnerships?
- b) What does it mean to seek leadership?
- c) How do the principles for equitable partnerships come into play?

Power dynamics play an important role in shaping partnerships in climate action, influencing decision-making, resource allocation, and the distribution of benefits^{xi}. Unequal power relationships can create imbalances in partnerships, leading to situations where some actors have greater control over decision-making processes and access to resources^{xii}. This hinders the effectiveness of climate action initiatives by limiting the participation of marginalized communities. Addressing power dynamics requires recognizing and challenging existing hierarchies, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that all those involved have a voice in decision-making. It was pointed out during this session that organizations holding contracts with donors often possess significant power, which can reinforce existing power imbalances. While the status quo may be comfortable for those in positions of power, it is essential to recognize the importance of challenging these imbalances to create more equitable partnerships.

It also came out clearly that Southern organizations should also recognize that true leadership requires trust, transparency, open communication, and a willingness to adapt. It is essential to acknowledge that not all Southern organizations share the same values and may therefore require internal introspection and transformation to foster equitable partnerships. By addressing internal power dynamics and values, organizations can better challenge external norms and create a more equitable environment for accelerating local climate action.

Challenges and Opportunities of Southern Leadership

Southern leadership in climate action faces significant challenges, including limited resources, institutional constraints, and historical inequities^{xiii}. Despite these obstacles, Southern countries have demonstrated remarkable resilience and innovation in addressing climate change. For example, many countries in Africa have embraced renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. Additionally, Southern countries have played a leading role in advocating for climate justice and equitable climate finance^{xiiii}. These examples highlight the potential for Southern leadership to drive ambitious and effective climate action, provided that the necessary support and resources are available. This account was emphasized during the webinar by noting that while leading partnerships can offer benefits such as direct access to donors and increased visibility, it also presents challenges, including the time-consuming nature of coordination and the potential strain on budgets. As such, open communication and co-creation are essential for building trust and supporting Southern leadership. It is also imperative for funders to provide enabling conditions and flexible support mechanisms to facilitate equitable partnerships.

Achieving equitable partnerships thus requires a systemic shift that goes beyond collaboration. This involves examining values, ethics, modes of working, and aspirations. Learning from each other, setting boundaries in co-creation, and addressing inequalities within Southern funding systems are crucial aspects of this transformation.

From a funder's perspective, developing equitable partnerships can enhance knowledge sharing and support Southern systems. By challenging existing systems and promoting real partnerships, funders can therefore contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future.

A key insight that was noted among the panellists was the necessity of considering the ultimate beneficiaries of research. This underscores the significance of well-functioning partnerships in maximizing the impact of climate change adaptation efforts.

2.5 Tackling equitable gender equity and social inclusion in climate action

Tackling equitable gender equity and social inclusion in climate action requires intentional and transformative approaches that address the unique vulnerabilities and capabilities of marginalized groups^{xiv}. Women and other socially disadvantaged groups often face disproportionate impacts from climate change due to existing inequalities in access to resources and decision-making power. Equitable climate action recognizes these disparities and works to address structural barriers by promoting policies that amplify their voices^{xv}. This includes integrating gender-responsive and socially inclusive frameworks into climate strategies, fostering leadership opportunities for marginalized groups, and ensuring that climate finance mechanisms are accessible to those most affected. By prioritizing social inclusion and gender equity, climate action can lead to more just and sustainable outcomes^{xvi}.

This webinar provided an opportunity to reflect and exchange ideas on what barriers and enablers of inclusive locally led adaptation look like and the lessons learned. To ensure that locally-led adaptation supports and empowers vulnerable people, they need to be understood^{xvii}. It is also imperative for the various barriers and social norms that they experience to be identified. Building on the takeaways from the previous learning sessions, this webinar aimed to share and discuss innovative tools, lessons and challenges emerging from compelling stories contributing to the change process towards inclusive locally led adaptation in different African countries, both in policy and practice. The panellists, drawn from different projects under the Step Change initiative provided comprehensive accounts of their experiences guided by the following questions.

- a) Please explain how you have gone about understanding the local context and differentiated realities of the people you work with, and how this has translated into more impactful and targeted actions.
- b) Beyond understanding the context in which people live, what else can be done to tackle structural barriers to gender equality and social inclusion, and ultimately, enable more equitable climate action?
- c) What are some of the challenges that you have encountered in integrating gender equality and social inclusion into practice and policy? How have you overcome them? Any lessons?

- d) In your experience, what is the number one factor that is necessary to shift power dynamics and enable inclusive and locally-led climate actions?

Understanding the local context and differentiating realities within target communities is vital for designing effective climate adaptation and development interventions^{xlviii}. Several approaches can be employed to achieve this understanding, among them community participatory assessments, conducting socio-economic and cultural analyses which help to reveal disparities in access to resources, decision-making, and exposure to risks, distinguishing between different groups, such as women, youth, elders, and marginalized ethnic groups^{xlix}. By employing such methods, practitioners can better differentiate the realities of various groups within a community and design context-specific interventions that are socially just, culturally relevant, and locally appropriate. These approaches were reiterated as effective in building community resilience.

Radio programs play a vital role in climate change advocacy, especially in reaching rural and marginalized communities where other forms of communication may be less accessible^l. As a widely available and cost-effective medium, it has the power to disseminate climate-related information in local languages, making scientific concepts more understandable for diverse groups^{li}. The interactive nature of radio also allows for community feedback, questions, and discussions, fostering greater engagement and enabling communities to share their experiences and solutions^{lii}. By leveraging radio, climate change advocacy can be more inclusive and effective in driving both awareness and action at the community level. This importance was emphasized, with examples from Burkina Faso, as a medium that engages a wide range of audiences, monitors needs and measures the impact of interventions.

Capacity gaps within communities, organizations, and governments can hinder their ability to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies^{liii}. By providing training, technical assistance, and access to relevant information, these gaps can be bridged, thereby empowering stakeholders to take informed and effective action. Furthermore, a lack of platforms for knowledge exchange can limit the sharing of best practices and innovative solutions^{liv}. The experience of CDKN highlighted that addressing these challenges is crucial for building resilience. By developing training modules and establishing a community of practice, CDKN has successfully connected efforts across government departments and promoted collaboration. This approach has led to promising early results, including the implementation of GESI mainstreaming tools and capacity assessment frameworks.

While understanding the context in which people live is crucial for effective climate action, it is not sufficient to address the structural barriers that enhance gender inequality and social exclusion^{lv}. These barriers often arise from systemic issues such as discriminatory laws, limited access to resources, and cultural norms. To truly achieve gender equality and social inclusion, it is necessary to go beyond understanding the context and actively challenge these structural barriers. This

requires a systemic approach that addresses power imbalances, promotes equity, and ensures that marginalized communities have a voice in decision-making processes.

Localization is therefore crucial for understanding specific contexts and tailoring interventions accordingly. Legislation plays a vital role in enabling more gender-sensitive and inclusive climate action. For example, Kenya's decentralized climate governance system requires county governments to be inclusive and ensures that elected leaders are vetted by the groups they represent.

Challenges and Lessons in Integrating GESI into Policy and Practice

Integrating GESI into climate change policy and practice presents significant challenges, including resistance to change and limited data on gender-specific impacts^{vi}. However, valuable lessons can be learned from the shared experiences. For example, participatory approaches that involve marginalized communities can help to identify and address their specific needs and priorities. Additionally, investing in gender-disaggregated data can provide evidence-based insights for informing policy decisions. By overcoming these challenges and applying these lessons, we can ensure that climate change policies and practices are more equitable, inclusive, and effective.

The persistent perception of GESI as primarily a women's issue was underscored, which often leads to its exclusion from climate-related planning. Addressing this misconception is crucial for ensuring that GESI is fully integrated into all aspects of climate action planning processes.

The case of Ethiopia illustrated the potential challenges and opportunities associated with government restructuring and the need for co-designing interventions and building trust among stakeholders as essential strategies for ensuring continuity and effectiveness.

Shifting power dynamics and fostering inclusive LLA can be achieved through targeted and intentional capacity building that addresses the specific needs of different target audiences^{vii}. Domestic policies can also play a crucial role in promoting a more intersectional approach to climate action as elaborated during this session.

The dynamic nature of communities, emphasizes that realities can change over time. This underscores the importance of ongoing engagement and monitoring to ensure that interventions tailored towards locally-led climate action remain relevant and effective. This necessitates the need to ensure that interventions have a lasting impact beyond the project level.

While the path to a sustainable future may be challenging, the webinar provided reassurance that the foundations for progress are being laid. By embracing collaboration, learning, and proactive action, we can build a more resilient and sustainable world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the webinar series offered an excellent opportunity for examining the complex function of intermediaries in locally led adaptation. Through discussions on topics ranging from ethical practices to equitable partnerships, the series offered insights into the challenges and opportunities facing intermediaries in promoting climate action. The key themes that emerged throughout the series included the importance of ethical considerations, decentralized finance, equitable Southern leadership, and inclusive locally led adaptation. Intermediaries were positioned as crucial players in navigating these complex issues and facilitating effective locally-led climate action.

References

- ⁱ Verlie, B. (2022). *Learning to live with climate change: From anxiety to transformation* (p. 140). Taylor & Francis.
- ⁱⁱ Ngcamu, B. S. (2023). Climate change effects on vulnerable populations in the Global South: a systematic review. *Natural Hazards*, *118*(2), 977-991
- ⁱⁱⁱ Singh, C., Ford, J., Ley, D., Bazaz, A., & Revi, A. (2020). Assessing the feasibility of adaptation options: methodological advancements and directions for climate adaptation research and practice. *Climatic Change*, *162*, 255-277.
- ^{iv} Karhinen, S., Peltomaa, J., Riekkinen, V., & Saikku, L. (2021). Impact of a climate network: The role of intermediaries in local level climate action. *Global Environmental Change*, *67*, 102225.
- ^v Chaudhury, A. (2020). Role of intermediaries in shaping climate finance in developing countries—lessons from the Green Climate Fund. *Sustainability*, *12*(14), 5507.
- ^{vi} Odeku, K. O. (2022). Climate injustices due to the unequal and disproportionate impacts of climate change. *Perspectives of Law and Public Administration*, *11*(1), 103-110.
- ^{vii} Codjoe, S. N., & Atiglo, D. Y. (2020). The implications of extreme weather events for attaining the sustainable development goals in sub-Saharan Africa. *Frontiers in Climate*, *2*, 592658.
- ^{viii} Overland, I., Fossum Sagbakken, H., Isataeva, A., Kolodzinskaia, G., Simpson, N. P., Trisos, C., & Vakulchuk, R. (2022). Funding flows for climate change research on Africa: where do they come from and where do they go? *Climate and Development*, *14*(8), 705-724.
- ^{ix} Ali, E. B., Anufriev, V. P., & Amfo, B. (2021). Green economy implementation in Ghana as a road map for a sustainable development drive: A review. *Scientific African*, *12*, e00756.
- ^x Islam, M. S., & Kieu, E. (2020). Tackling regional climate change impacts and food security issues: A critical analysis across ASEAN, PIF, and SAARC. *Sustainability*, *12*(3), 883.
- ^{xi} Khatri, P., Kumar, P., Shakya, K. S., Kirlas, M. C., & Tiwari, K. K. (2024). Understanding the intertwined nature of rising multiple risks in modern agriculture and food system. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, *26*(9), 24107-24150.
- ^{xii} Hasegawa, T., Sakurai, G., Fujimori, S., Takahashi, K., Hijioka, Y., & Masui, T. (2021). Extreme climate events increase risk of global food insecurity and adaptation needs. *Nature Food*, *2*(8), 587-595.
- ^{xiii} Morsy, H. (2020). Access to finance—Mind the gender gap. *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, *78*, 12-21.
- ^{xiv} Erman, A., De Vries Robbe, S. A., Thies, S. F., Kabir, K., & Maruo, M. (2021). Gender dimensions of disaster risk and resilience: Existing evidence.
- ^{xv} Chu, E. K., & Cannon, C. E. (2021). Equity, inclusion, and justice as criteria for decision-making on climate adaptation in cities. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, *51*, 85-94.
- ^{xvi} Hosen, N., Nakamura, H., & Hamzah, A. (2020). Adaptation to climate change: Does traditional ecological knowledge hold the key? *Sustainability*, *12*(2), 676.
- ^{xvii} Zidny, R., Sjöström, J., & Eilks, I. (2020). A multi-perspective reflection on how indigenous knowledge and related ideas can improve science education for sustainability. *Science & Education*, *29*(1), 145-185.
- ^{xviii} Hill, R., Adem, Ç., Alangui, W. V., Molnár, Z., Aumeeruddy-Thomas, Y., Bridgewater, P., ... & Xue, D. (2020). Working with indigenous, local and scientific knowledge in assessments of nature and nature's linkages with people. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, *43*, 8-20.
- ^{xix} Braunschweiger, D., & Pütz, M. (2021). Climate adaptation in practice: How mainstreaming strategies matter for policy integration. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, *31*(4), 361-373.
- ^{xx} Darjee, K. B., Sunam, R. K., Köhl, M., & Neupane, P. R. (2021). Do national policies translate into local actions? Analyzing coherence between climate change adaptation policies and implications for local adaptation in Nepal. *Sustainability*, *13*(23), 13115.
- ^{xxi} Barnes, M. L., Wang, P., Cinner, J. E., Graham, N. A., Guerrero, A. M., Jasny, L., ... & Zamborain-Mason, J. (2020). Social determinants of adaptive and transformative responses to climate change. *Nature Climate Change*, *10*(9), 823-828.
- ^{xxii} Guibrunet, L., Gerritsen, P. R. W., Sierra-Huelsz, J. A., Flores-Díaz, A. C., García-Frapolli, E., García-Serrano, E., ... & Balvanera, P. (2021). Beyond participation: How to achieve the recognition of local communities' value-systems in conservation? Some insights from Mexico. *People and nature*, *3*(3), 528-541.
- ^{xxiii} Robertson, M. (2022). Combining Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Greater Effectiveness: Lessons from Community-Level Interventions. In *Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Disaster Risk Management Strategies* (pp. 213-260). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

-
- xxiv The future of knowledge brokering: perspectives from a generational framework of knowledge management for international development
- xxv MacKillop, E., & Downe, J. (2023). Knowledge brokering organisations: a new way of governing evidence. *Evidence & Policy*, 19(1), 22-41.
- xxvi Mukute, M. (2023). *Developmental work research: A tool for enabling collective agricultural innovation*. BRILL.
- xxvii Brittain, S., Ibbett, H., de Lange, E., Dorward, L., Hoyte, S., Marino, A., ... & Lewis, J. (2020). Ethical considerations when conservation research involves people. *Conservation Biology*, 34(4), 925-933.
- xxviii Byskov, M. F., Hyams, K., Satyal, P., Anguelovski, I., Benjamin, L., Blackburn, S., ... & Venn, A. (2021). An agenda for ethics and justice in adaptation to climate change. *Climate and Development*, 13(1), 1-9.
- xxix Dooley, K., Holz, C., Kartha, S., Klinsky, S., Roberts, J. T., Shue, H., ... & Singer, P. (2021). Ethical choices behind quantifications of fair contributions under the Paris Agreement. *Nature Climate Change*, 11(4), 300-305.
- xxx Shrivastava, P., Smith, M. S., O'Brien, K., & Zsolnai, L. (2020). Transforming sustainability science to generate positive social and environmental change globally. *One Earth*, 2(4), 329-340.
- xxxi Schnugg, C., & Song, B. (2020). An organizational perspective on ArtScience collaboration: Opportunities and challenges of platforms to collaborate with artists. *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*, 6(1), 6.
- xxxii Hooghe, L., & Marks, G. (2021). Multilevel governance and the coordination dilemma. In *A research agenda for multilevel governance* (pp. 19-36). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- xxxiii Neal, J. W., Posner, S., & Brutzman, B. (2023). Understanding brokers, intermediaries, and boundary spanners: a multi-sectoral review of strategies, skills, and outcomes. *Evidence & Policy*, 19(1), 95-115.
- xxxiv Apostolopoulos, N., Chalvatzis, K. J., Liargovas, P. G., Newbery, R., & Rokou, E. (2020). The role of the expert knowledge broker in rural development: Renewable energy funding decisions in Greece. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 78, 96-106.
- xxxv Chaudhury, A. (2020). Role of intermediaries in shaping climate finance in developing countries—lessons from the Green Climate Fund. *Sustainability*, 12(14), 5507.
- xxxvi Kalaidjian, E., & Robinson, S. A. (2022). Reviewing the nature and pitfalls of multilateral adaptation finance for small island developing states. *Climate Risk Management*, 36, 100432.
- xxxvii Nautiyal, S., & Klinsky, S. (2022). The knowledge politics of capacity building for climate change at the UNFCCC. *Climate Policy*, 22(5), 576-592.
- xxxviii Mehan, A., & Tafrata, B. (2023). Embedding justice in resilient climate change action. In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Futures* (pp. 484-486). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- xxxix Schreuder, W., & Horlings, L. G. (2022). Transforming places together: transformative community strategies responding to climate change and sustainability challenges. *Climate Action*, 1(1).
- xl Colloff, M. J., Gorddard, R., Abel, N., Locatelli, B., Wyborn, C., Butler, J. R., ... & Dunlop, M. (2021). Adapting transformation and transforming adaptation to climate change using a pathways approach. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 124, 163-174.
- xli Orlove, B., Shwom, R., Markowitz, E., & Cheong, S. M. (2020). Climate decision-making. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 45(1), 271-303.
- xliii Khan, M., Robinson, S. A., Weikmans, R., Ciplet, D., & Roberts, J. T. (2020). Twenty-five years of adaptation finance through a climate justice lens. *Climatic Change*, 161(2), 251-269.
- xliv Prakash, A., Conde, C., Ayanlade, A., Kerr, R. B., & Boyd, E. (2022). Cross-chapter box gender: gender, climate justice and transformative pathways. *Climate Change*.
- xlv Kwauk, C. T., & Casey, O. M. (2022). A green skills framework for climate action, gender empowerment, and climate justice. *Development Policy Review*, 40, e12624.
- xlvi Roy, J., Prakash, A., Some, S., Singh, C., Bezner Kerr, R., Caretta, M. A., ... & Tandon, I. (2022). Synergies and trade-offs between climate change adaptation options and gender equality: a review of the global literature. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 9(1).
- xlvii Cogger, T., Dinshaw, A., Tye, S., Kratzer, B., Aung, M. T., Cunningham, E., ... & Carthy, A. (2022). Locally led adaptation: From principles to practice. *World Resources Institute*, 1-32.
- xlviii Chu, E. K., & Cannon, C. E. (2021). Equity, inclusion, and justice as criteria for decision-making on climate adaptation in cities. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 51, 85-94.
- xlix Degroot, D., Anchukaitis, K., Bauch, M., Burnham, J., Carnegy, F., Cui, J., ... & Zappia, N. (2021). Towards a rigorous understanding of societal responses to climate change. *Nature*, 591(7851), 539-550.
- ¹ Abdulai, A. R., Chireh, V. K., & Tchoukaleyska, R. (2021). Engaging diverse audiences: The role of community radio in rural climate change knowledge translation. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*, 13(3), 8.

-
- ^{li} Kamlongera, M. I. (2022). Radio edutainment and participatory communication for social change: A case of lived reality among a rural Malawian audience. *Journal of African Media Studies*, 14(2), 309-325.
- ^{lii} Schäfer, M. S., & Painter, J. (2021). Climate journalism in a changing media ecosystem: Assessing the production of climate change-related news around the world. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 12(1), e675.
- ^{liii} Khatibi, F. S., Dedekorkut-Howes, A., Howes, M., & Torabi, E. (2021). Can public awareness, knowledge and engagement improve climate change adaptation policies? *Discover Sustainability*, 2, 1-24.
- ^{liv} Azeem, M., Ahmed, M., Haider, S., & Sajjad, M. (2021). Expanding competitive advantage through organizational culture, knowledge sharing and organizational innovation. *Technology in Society*, 66, 101635.
- ^{lv} Bridges, D., Wulff, E., & Bamberry, L. (2023). Resilience for gender inclusion: Developing a model for women in male-dominated occupations. *Gender, work & organization*, 30(1), 263-279.
- ^{lvi} Mapedza, E., Huyer, S., Chanana, N., Rose, A., Jacobs-Mata, I., Mudege, N. N., ... & Nohayi, N. (2022). Framework for incorporating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) elements in climate information services (CIS). *Sustainability*, 15(1), 190.
- ^{lvii} Winters, M. F. (2020). *Inclusive conversations: Fostering equity, empathy, and belonging across differences*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers.