



PROMOTION OF INCREASED GENDER RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED BUDGET ALLOCATION IN THE 2026-2029 NATIONAL BUDGET STATEMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Statement By SIGRA, Kasa Initiative Ghana & ABANTU for Development

During a recent CSO capacity-building training on the budget process and climate and gender-related allocations, several gaps were identified, and concrete demands were made by participants. In addition, a review of the 2025 budget statement from a climate change perspective was undertaken and the findings also presented at the same meeting. Building on these insights, SIGRA, Kasa Initiative Ghana and ABANTU for Development have compiled the following submission of inputs to the Ministry of Finance for consideration.

SIGRA is a 5-year project funded by Global Affairs Canada, that seeks to *improve the resilience of Ghanaian citizens, particularly women, girls, and vulnerable groups, through increased investments in inclusive and gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives.*

From the budget analysis, it was established that climate change-related allocations constitute approximately **0.22%** of the total 2025 annual national budget.

Specifically, out of this low **0.22%**:

- 68.21% is allocated to climate adaptation,
- 16.37% to climate mitigation, and
- 15.42% to cross-cutting interventions that contribute to both adaptation and mitigation.

From the analysis and observations made, we wish to propose a few points for consideration in the drafting of the 2026-2029 budget statement and related processes. Given the increasing severity and complexity of climate change impacts across Ghana, we find the 0.22% significantly below international benchmarks, where many countries allocate between 2%–5% of their annual budgets to climate actions, with a gender lens increasingly applied in line with UNFCCC recommendations. The allocation is insufficient to address current and emerging climate challenges meaningfully. This low allocation is worrying, given the high vulnerability of Ghana's economy to climate shocks like flooding, drought, and extreme weather events which disproportionately affect women smallholder farmers, informal traders, and youth. Women represent more than 70% of subsistence agricultural labour and are therefore on the frontlines of climate change impacts, yet less than 10% of agriculture-related budgets in 2025 explicitly targeted women.

While we acknowledge and commend the Government of Ghana's commitment to addressing development challenges, we respectfully request if the following could be considered:

1. Increase budgetary allocations for climate change and gender-responsive initiatives from the current 0.22% to at least 2% of the total annual budget, in line with Ghana's commitments under the Paris Agreement, SDGs (Goal 13 & 5), and Agenda 2063.
2. Ring-fence allocations for women's climate adaptation programmes, including access to climate-smart agricultural technologies, water and sanitation facilities, renewable



- energy solutions, and land tenure security. Evidence from the World Bank shows that such targeted investments yield up to 25% higher returns in productivity and resilience.
3. Introduce a Gender-Responsive Climate Budgeting Framework across all MDAs/MMDAs, with clear indicators to track allocations and actual expenditures for women, girls, and vulnerable groups. This framework should build on the PFM reforms and ongoing Activate/Hyperion and the Annual Progress Report.
 4. Strengthen the existing Climate and Gender Monitoring mechanisms under MoF and NDPC, by ensuring they have clear mandates, adequate resources, and active participation of CSOs. This will enhance annual reviews of progress and reinforce accountability for gender-equitable climate investments.
 5. Continued engagement with CSOs involved in climate change and gender-related programming, as their efforts complement those of the government, particularly in reaching underserved and hard-to-reach communities.

In the area council 2025 budget consultations SIGRA supported with partner districts and Citizens, some of the most often raised needs include:

- Targeted support in agriculture and economic empowerment to women and those most vulnerable to climate change impacts (better market infrastructure, increased access to farm inputs, support to diversify);
- Increased access to health care services to address climate related health impacts, given the gendered nature of care responsibilities.
- Increased access to potable water to decrease the burden on women and girls to fetch water which affects their productivity and girls' education; and
- The need to increase engagement with the groups most vulnerable to climate change, including women, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, in the planning and budgeting of climate adaptation projects.

As SIGRA, Kasa Initiative Ghana and ABANTU for Development, we remain committed to working with partners and stakeholders to support inclusive, gender-responsive, and climate-resilient development planning, implementation and monitoring in Ghana.

Yours sincerely,

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