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MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS
MANAGER, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT FINANCE DIVISION

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second edition of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) newsletter for 2026.

Across Africa, communities are responding to climate change with innovative, inclusive, and locally driven solutions. In this edition, we are pleased to share stories that demonstrate how ACCF-supported initiatives are strengthening resilience, empowering communities, and helping build a more sustainable future.

From Ethiopia and Malawi, we highlight how investments in climate-smart agriculture, solar-powered irrigation, and financial inclusion are improving food security, increasing incomes, and creating new opportunities for smallholder farmers. In Somalia, we showcase efforts to strengthen climate finance capacity, restore degraded rangelands, and equip pastoral communities with the knowledge and tools needed to adapt to a changing climate.

This edition also shines a spotlight on inclusion. Through the ACCF-supported STREVOW project, a newly published book chapter brings greater visibility to the experiences of women with disabilities in climate action and reinforces the importance of ensuring that their voices shape climate policies, investments, and decision-making processes.

You will also discover the latest edition of our Voices of ACCF series, featuring Faith Gikunda, Programs Director at ICCASA, who shares her insights on advancing disability-inclusive climate action and empowering women with disabilities as leaders and agents of change.

Together, these stories reflect ACCF's continued commitment to supporting practical, people-centred solutions that strengthen resilience, promote inclusion, and deliver lasting impact across the continent.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Happy reading!

FROM STRUGGLE TO STABILITY: CHIMWEMWE MWAWA'S JOURNEY TO RESILIENCE

Chimwemwe Mwawa is a member of the Chiswamafupa solar-powered irrigation scheme, a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA), and a farmer association in Group Village Head Tambala, Traditional Authority Lamusi, Zomba District Add Malawi so we know which country is he from for both Malawi and Mozambique. Through the ACCF-funded project, he has transformed his farming activities and strengthened his family's resilience.



Chimwemwe Mwawa on his farm in Zomba District, Malawi. © Oxfam / Veronica Mwale

For over eight years, Chimwemwe cultivated maize and rice on his two-acre field. Despite his dedication, his productivity remained low due to poor-quality seeds and limited access to essential farm inputs. On average, he harvested only 12–15 bags annually, resulting in persistent food insecurity and limited income for his household.

In 2019, a prolonged dry spell destroyed nearly half of his crops, further deepening his vulnerability. For years, Chimwemwe struggled to recover. Without collateral, he could not access formal credit, limiting his ability to invest in improved inputs and trapping him in a cycle of low productivity.

A turning point came in 2024 when Chimwemwe joined a VSLA linked to the Chiswamafupa solar-powered irrigation scheme, which was rehabilitated under the ACCF Project. Through project-supported capacity building and financial inclusion initiatives, he strengthened his savings culture. In 2025, he accessed a loan of MK200,000 (approximately USD 116), enabling him to make meaningful investments in his farming activities and apply the climate-smart agriculture knowledge and skills gained through training.

With financial and technical support from the project, Chimwemwe purchased certified seeds and adequate fertilizer on time, adopted winter cropping using the solar-powered irrigation system, applied climate-smart agriculture practices, and introduced farm record-keeping to improve planning and decision-making.

These interventions yielded remarkable results, in line with the African Development Bank's priorities on productivity, income growth, and resilience building. Chimwemwe's harvest increased to 48 bags of maize and 40 bags of rice, compared with 15 bags previously. He successfully repaid his MK200,000 loan and generated approximately MK700,000 (USD 405) from surplus crop sales. He also purchased two goats, rehabilitated his home, and paid his children's school fees. With the irrigation system now fully operational, Chimwemwe is optimistic about the future. He plans to expand his cultivated land by 0.5 acres, venture into vegetable farming during the winter season, and invest in a motorcycle to diversify his income and improve market access.

Chimwemwe's story illustrates how access to climate-smart technologies, financial services, and practical training can help smallholder farmers increase productivity, strengthen resilience, and build a more secure future.

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FOSTERING ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE SOMALI RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BANK



Group photo of the participants to the ACCF-supported climate risk assessment and climate finance training, Mogadishu, Somalia. ©AFAC Secretariat

From 2 to 4 June 2026, representatives of the Somali Development and Reconstruction Bank (SDRB) participated in a technical training programme on assessing climate risks and identifying opportunities to mobilize climate finance. The training was supported through a technical assistance programme from the African Financial Alliance on Climate Change (AFAC) through a grant from the ACCF.

The technical assistance aims to strengthen SDRB's internal Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and climate risk management frameworks, supporting the Bank's efforts to better integrate climate considerations into its operations. It also contributes to AFAC's broader strategic objective of aligning financial flows with the Paris Agreement, advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, and mobilizing capital for climate-resilient and low-carbon development across Africa.

The support to SDRB forms part of the African Development Bank's broader financial sector support programme in Somalia, launched in September 2024. This includes a USD 6.6 million grant approved by the Bank's Board of Directors to support financial sector reforms led by the Ministry of Finance. Together, these interventions aim to strengthen the resilience, stability, and capacity of Somalia's financial sector to drive sustainable economic growth and climate-resilient development.

The training focused on practical, context-specific tools and methodologies for climate risk assessment and screening, as well as the application of sustainable finance taxonomies to support the development of climate finance project pipelines.

Held in Mogadishu, Somalia, the training brought together 37 participants from SDRB and partner financial institutions, including the microfinance institutions, KIMS, Maal, Raas, Bushra, Asal, and Himilo. Through interactive sessions and case studies, participants strengthened their capacity to identify, assess, and manage climate-related financial risks while exploring opportunities to mobilize investment for climate-resilient development.

Somalia is among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, with climate shocks affecting more than 9 million people, displacing over 3.8 million people internally, and causing economic losses estimated at 2–3% of GDP annually. The country also faces a climate finance gap of approximately USD 5.5 billion by 2030[1] to implement its climate adaptation and mitigation priorities.

By strengthening the capacity of SDRB and partner financial institutions to identify, assess, and manage climate-related risks while developing pipelines of bankable climate investments, this training helps lay the foundation for increased climate finance mobilization and a more resilient financial sector capable of supporting Somalia's adaptation and development needs.

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1- Federal Republic of Somalia Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 (2025).

NEW PUBLICATION AMPLIFIES THE VOICES AND EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN CLIMATE ACTION AND LOSS AND DAMAGE DISCUSSIONS



Women with Disabilities during the World Farmers Organization Annual Meeting in Nairobi, where they shared their experiences and stories of resilience. Engaging WWD in decision making empowers them to take up climate leadership. ©ICCASA

Women With Disabilities (WWDs) often face disproportionate climate-related loss and damage due to the intersecting impacts of disability, gender inequality, poverty, exclusion, and limited access to climate adaptation resources and services. Across Eastern Africa, climate-induced disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and erratic rainfall patterns continue to disrupt livelihoods, increase food insecurity, limit mobility, and heighten vulnerability among WWDs. Many face barriers in accessing early warning systems, evacuation support, healthcare, climate information, and participation in climate decision-making processes.

In the recently published journal chapter by the Centre for Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA) titled, "Intersecting Vulnerabilities: Climate Change Impacts and Coping Strategies Among Women with Disabilities in Eastern Africa," published as Chapter 24 in the Springer Nature volume Extreme Climate Events, Loss and Damage in Africa: Resilience and Adaptation, ICCASA captures the lived experiences, vulnerabilities, resilience pathways, and coping strategies of WWDs across Eastern Africa.

The publication reflects experiences continuously shared through ICCASA's ongoing *Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disability to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW)* project being implemented across 12 Eastern African countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), namely Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Funded by ACCF, the STREVOW project seeks to strengthen the visibility, participation, leadership, and influence of WWDs within climate governance, climate negotiations, and policy processes while ensuring that disability inclusion remains central within climate action discussions across the region.

The chapter documents how WWDs continue to experience challenges linked to inaccessible infrastructure, exclusion from policy spaces, inadequate adaptive support systems, and social discrimination, all of which increase their exposure to climate-related risks and losses. Women with physical disabilities reported difficulties evacuating



Women with Disabilities during the World Farmers Organization Annual Meeting in Nairobi, where they shared their experiences and stories of resilience. Engaging WWD in decision making empowers them to take up climate leadership. ©ICCASA

during floods due to inaccessible transport and evacuation systems, while women with visual and hearing impairments highlighted barriers in accessing climate information and early warning systems that are often not designed in accessible formats.

Beyond economic losses, the publication further captures the non-economic dimensions of climate-related loss and damage, including trauma, anxiety, fear, social isolation, reduced dignity, and exclusion from community support systems and decision-making spaces. Despite these challenges, the chapter also highlights the resilience and leadership of WWDs through livelihood diversification, climate-resilient farming practices, peer support systems, household adaptation measures, and community advocacy initiatives aimed at strengthening climate resilience and advancing inclusion.

Importantly, the publication represents a significant milestone in advancing the visibility and recognition of Women with Disabilities within climate change discourse, policy, and research. For many years, the experiences of WWDs have remained largely absent in climate-related evidence, programming, and decision-making spaces. This publication, therefore, contributes to strengthening the evidence-based disability-inclusive climate action while elevating the voices, realities, and leadership of WWDs within regional and global climate conversations. It further reinforces ongoing advocacy efforts calling for more inclusive climate governance systems that recognize WWDs not as passive victims of climate change but as active leaders, knowledge holders, and contributors to resilience building and climate solutions across Africa.

The publication calls for urgent investment in disability-inclusive and gender-transformative climate policies, accessible early warning systems, inclusive climate financing, improved disaggregated data systems, and stronger participation of WWDs in climate governance and adaptation planning processes across Africa.

First published here

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TRANSFORMING TO GREEN ENERGY WHILE ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



Some members of the Abahina, Mohammed, Amina, and their Friends group harvesting their first-round production utilizing green energy. ©Farm Africa

The Gender Transformation and Climate Resilience Project is helping farming communities in Ethiopia improve agricultural productivity, strengthen climate resilience, and increase household incomes through green energy and climate-smart agriculture. During the April–June 2026 reporting period, the project supported key interventions, including the construction of community water ponds, the distribution of improved seedlings, and the expansion of solar-powered irrigation systems.

One of the project's major achievements is the construction of a community pond with a storage capacity of 2,450 m^3 at the Adidos PRM site in Saburie Kebele, Awash Fantale Woreda. The pond is expected to benefit more than 500 households and approximately 2,500 livestock, particularly during dry seasons and periods of water scarcity.

Alongside improved access to water, the project also strengthened climate-smart agricultural production by distributing high-yielding crop varieties. These included tissue culture banana seedlings, banana suckers, mango seedlings, local lemon seedlings, watermelon seeds, and Malkasa-2 improved maize seeds.

The project also supported farming groups in adopting green energy solutions through the installation of solar-powered irrigation pumps. These investments are already delivering significant productivity and income gains while reducing dependence on costly and environmentally harmful fuel-based irrigation systems.

One example is a group of 26 farmers (69% women) who successfully cultivated pepper on six hectares of irrigated land. During their first harvest, the group produced 67 quintals of pepper, generating ETB 603,000 (approximately USD 3,780) in revenue. As pepper can be harvested multiple times, further production and income are expected in subsequent harvests.

Another group of 28 farmers (54% women), in Sidihafage Kebele, Amibara Woreda, also achieved impressive results by cultivating onions on four hectares of land. In a single growing season, the group harvested 18,000 kilograms of onions, generating ETB 810,000 (approximately USD 5,080) in revenue. Building on this success, members have already begun preparing for the next cropping cycle and established fruit tree plantations, including banana, lemon, and mango, to diversify their income sources and strengthen the long-term sustainability of their farming activities.

The Story of Transformation: From Collapse to Success

Just a few years ago, the idea of using solar-powered irrigation seemed out of reach for the Abahina, Mohammed, Amina, and Friends group in Ethiopia's Afar Region. The group relied entirely on diesel-powered irrigation, but rising fuel costs made farming increasingly expensive and unsustainable. Eventually, production declined, incomes fell, and the group was forced to disband.

For nearly four years, their farmland remained uncultivated, and the members' shared vision of building a sustainable farming enterprise gradually faded.

A turning point came when Farm Africa, with support from ACCF, reached the community through the Gender Transformation and Climate Resilience Project.

The group was revitalized and formally reorganized into a legally recognized farmers' association. Of its 28 members (54% women), many of whom now hold leadership positions, a notable achievement in the Afar context.

The project provided comprehensive support, including training in climate-smart agricultural practices, technical assistance, and improved agricultural inputs. Most importantly, the installation of a solar-powered irrigation system addressed the group's greatest challenge. By eliminating dependence on costly diesel pumps, the system reduced production costs, promoted clean energy, protected the environment, and enabled year-round farming.



Wasera Community Pond in Saburie kebele of Awash Fantale Woreda. ©Farm Africa

Today, the group has successfully resumed farming using solar-powered irrigation, producing onions, fruit, and vegetables while supplying local and regional markets. Increased productivity and lower production costs have improved household incomes and restored members' confidence in farming as a sustainable livelihood.



Fatuma, Ali, Asiya, and their Friends Pepper producing group in Sidihofage Kebele, Amibara Woreda. ©Farm Africa

The transformation has restored the group's confidence and strengthened its prospects for the future. Their experience demonstrates how access to clean energy, climate-smart agriculture, and targeted technical support can help farming communities rebuild livelihoods and strengthen resilience to climate change.

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RANGELAND RESTORATION DELIVERS ECOLOGICAL AND LIVELIHOOD BENEFITS IN PUNTLAND, SOMALIA



Practical demonstration of reseeding in Garowe along the halfmoon structures. ©World Vision

The project is restoring degraded rangelands in Puntland through an integrated approach that combines half-moon micro-catchments with the reseeding of indigenous, drought-tolerant grass species. Already delivering significant ecological and livelihood benefits in Garowe and Eyl, the initiative is demonstrating the potential of climate-resilient landscape restoration in arid and semi-arid environments.

A key achievement during the reporting period was the training of 200 community members (50% women), on reseeding techniques and the management and protection of grass seeds. This inclusive capacity-building initiative has strengthened community ownership of restoration efforts while promoting gender-balanced participation in sustainable rangeland management. Participants are now actively protecting reseeded sites, applying improved grazing practices during critical establishment phases, and raising awareness of sustainable land management within their communities.

The half-moon micro-catchment structures have played a central role in accelerating ecosystem recovery by capturing and retaining rainwater, improving soil moisture, and creating favourable conditions for seed germination and plant establishment. Combined with the reseeding of locally adapted, drought-tolerant grass species, the intervention has increased vegetation cover, reduced soil erosion, and strengthened the resilience of restored grazing lands. Improved water infiltration and higher soil organic matter are also contributing to the long-term stability and productivity of these ecosystems.

Beyond environmental restoration, the project is already generating tangible benefits for pastoral communities. Improved forage availability has enhanced livestock health, increased milk production, and reduced livestock losses during dry seasons. The recovery of grazing areas has also eased pressure on surrounding rangelands, helping reduce competition for natural resources while supporting biodiversity recovery and essential ecosystem services.

Through the restoration of productive grazing ecosystems, the project is advancing sustainable land management, strengthening climate resilience, and improving the livelihoods of pastoral communities across Puntland.

TRAINING AGRO-PASTORAL FIELD SCHOOLS ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE

Another key achievement of the project on improving livestock husbandry and strengthening climate change adaptation is the successful establishment of a Smart Agropastoral Field School. This initiative has delivered tangible impact across 10 villages by enhancing pastoral knowledge, promoting climate-smart practices, and strengthening community resilience to climate shocks.

Two structured training sessions were conducted through the Field School, reaching 350 participants (including 57% women). This strong participation of women reflects an important step toward inclusive capacity building in pastoral communities, where women play a critical role in livestock management and household food security.

The training sessions focused on improving livestock husbandry practices and equipping participants with climate-smart pastoral skills. Key topics included animal nutrition and feeding strategies, disease prevention and veterinary care, rotational grazing techniques, water conservation, and adaptation measures to address drought and climate variability. The participatory approach allowed beneficiaries to engage in practical demonstrations and group discussions, strengthening their understanding and application of new skills in real-life pastoral settings.

A major innovation of this activity was the integration of a radio-based learning program. Participants were able to listen to structured training sessions broadcast through local radio, which expanded the reach of knowledge beyond physical meetings. This approach proved highly effective, especially for remote households who could not always attend in-person sessions. The radio lessons reinforced key messages and ensured continuous learning within the 10 villages.



Representatives of farmer field schools attending a community training on livestock husbandry. ©World Vision

To strengthen accountability and learning outcomes, participants were assessed at the end of each lesson through simple question-based evaluations. Those who successfully completed the assessments were awarded transportation for USD 5. This recognition not only motivated learners but also encouraged greater engagement and knowledge of retention throughout the training process.

As a result of the Field School initiative, participants have begun adopting improved livestock management practices, leading to better animal health, reduced losses, and increased awareness of climate adaptation strategies. Additionally, knowledge sharing among community members has expanded, creating a multiplier effect across the villages.

Overall, the Smart Agropastoral Field School has emerged as a practical and impactful model for strengthening climate-resilient livestock systems, improving rural livelihoods, and promoting sustainable pastoral development under the AfDB project.

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BURUNDI CHAMPIONS GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH MULTISECTORAL CAPACITY BUILDING ON SRHR, GBV AND PROTECTION INTERSECTIONS



UNFPA Burundi / 2026: Participants at the Expert Training on Integrating SRHR and Gender Equality into Climate Action in Bujumbura, May 2026

Between 19 and 22 May 2026, a major milestone was achieved under the Resilient Futures project. The Burundi Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, in collaboration with UNFPA, hosted the sixth capacity-building workshop on gender-transformative adaptation in Bujumbura. Co-organised with the Directorate General of Environment, Water Resources, and Hygiene; the Disaster Management Institution; and the Ministry of Health, this landmark event brought together 73 key stakeholders, including national government officers from health and environment ministries, civil society leaders, UN agencies, and representatives from youth- and women-led organizations. The objective was clear: to systematically integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) into Burundi's national climate action.

At the opening ceremony, Kacou Pierre Konan, Acting Resident Representative of UNFPA in Burundi, alongside Ndikumasabo Clément, Director General of the Environment and Sustainable Land Management Program at Burundi's Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, stressed the growing urgency of addressing the human cost of climate change.

"We must contribute to building communities that are more resilient, more just, and better equipped to face the challenges ahead." UNFPA Resident Representative, Dr. Kacou Pierre Konan

Addressing Intersectional Vulnerabilities

Burundi is highly vulnerable to climate change despite producing less than 0.02% of global greenhouse gas emissions. With climate-related disasters like floods and landslides acting as the primary drivers of internal displacement, these shocks act as human suffering multipliers that disproportionately affect women and girls, leading to increased risks of GBV, early marriage, and the severe disruption of maternal health services. Yet, current vulnerability assessment tools often overlook SRHR and GBV, focusing primarily on food and housing.

"Climate action must prioritize sexual and reproductive health and aim to prevent gender-based violence, particularly for the most vulnerable." Ndikumasabo Clément, Director General of the Environment and Sustainable Land Management Program at Burundi's Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

Recognizing that climate crises amplify existing inequalities, the workshop was considered timely



UNFPA Burundi / 2026: Participants at the Expert Training on Integrating SRHR and Gender Equality into Climate Action in Bujumbura, May 2026

to ensure that these crucial intersections are integrated into strategic implementation frameworks for the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) as well as the country's upcoming National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Participants gained foundational knowledge on the linkages between climate change, SRHR, and gender and how to strengthen climate-resilient systems (health, protection, and education) for the resilience of women, girls, and the most at-risk and vulnerable groups to climate impacts.

Equipping Leaders with Gender-Transformative Climate Resilience Skills

The training workshop equipped participants with critical, life-saving knowledge, skills, and strategies. Attendees were trained to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRHR during climate emergencies, ensuring that essential care acts as a bridge to long-term resilience, including strategies for institutionalizing MISP into national disaster management policies and standard midwifery/medical university curricula. To translate policy into practice, participants learned to apply gender-responsive climate budget tagging to effectively mobilize and track green finance. They were also trained in utilizing harmonized gender-responsive climate vulnerability assessment tools that systematically capture SRHR, HIV, and GBV needs as well as systematically incorporate SRHR, GBV, and HIV indicators into national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans. Further highlighted was the need to transition from reactive climate responses to proactive planning using disaggregated data that lays the foundation to secure global climate financing. A powerful guiding consensus emphasized throughout the workshop is that "no climate justice exists without gender justice."

From Commitment to Concrete Action

The four-day intensive training culminated in the collaborative development of a multisectoral national action plan. Key highlights of the plan are the conduct of a gender-responsive climate vulnerability assessment that integrates SRHR, GBV, HIV, and harmful practices and the implementation of the key NDC3.0 commitments around these intersections. This operational roadmap outlines clear, actionable steps to embed SRHR and GBV prevention into Burundi's forthcoming NDC 3.0 and NAP. By institutionalizing these inclusive priorities across sectors, the Resilient Futures project is ensuring that Burundi's climate strategy not only mitigates environmental risks but also actively protects the health, dignity, and rights of its most vulnerable populations, especially women, girls, and young people.

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VOICES OF ACCF #5: FAITH GIKUNDA: AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN CLIMATE ACTION

"Voices of ACCF" shines a light on the people driving climate action across Africa. Through brief interviews, beneficiaries, partners, and team members share their experiences and perspectives, highlighting the tangible impact of the Africa Climate Change Fund on communities and the environment.

Faith Gikunda is the Programs Director at the Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA), where she leads programmes promoting gender equality, disability inclusion, and climate resilience across Africa. She coordinates the STREVOW project, implemented across 12 countries in Eastern Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and brings over 20 years of experience in strategic communications, advocacy, policy engagement, and programme management.



Faith Gikunda, ICCASA's STREVOW project manager speaking on how climate change affects nutrition during the Africa Food Systems Forum.

1. Could you please tell us about your role at ICCASA?

I provide strategic leadership in the design, implementation, and coordination of programmes that promote inclusive climate action, with a particular focus on gender equality and disability inclusion. I also lead partnerships, policy engagement, knowledge management, and advocacy initiatives that ensure marginalized groups, particularly women with disabilities, are actively involved in climate governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, and global levels.

2. Can you briefly introduce the project and explain how ICCASA is helping strengthen the voices of women with disabilities in climate action?

The Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW) project is implemented by ICCASA in partnership with CEMIRIDE and funded by the African Development Bank's ACCF.

The project addresses the long-standing exclusion of women with disabilities from climate governance by strengthening their leadership, advocacy, and participation in climate policy and decision-making. Working across Eastern Africa and SIDS, STREVOW supports engagement in NDCs, NAPs, climate finance discussions, and the UNFCCC process through the Global Disability Caucus. It also promotes policy dialogue, knowledge generation, media engagement, and South-South learning to amplify the voices and priorities of women with disabilities in climate action.

The project's goal is not only to increase participation, but to ensure that women with disabilities influence the decisions that shape climate policies and investments.

3. Why is it essential to include women with disabilities in climate decision-making and adaptation efforts?

Women with disabilities experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, disability, poverty, and social exclusion. These inequalities often limit their access to climate information, resources, finance, technology, and decision-making platforms, even though they are disproportionately affected by climate change. Including women with disabilities in climate decision-making is therefore both a human rights obligation and a practical necessity.

Their lived experiences provide valuable knowledge about resilient livelihoods, accessible adaptation measures, disaster preparedness, and inclusive community development. When they participate meaningfully, climate policies become more equitable, more effective, and better able to respond to the needs of entire communities.

The principle of «Nothing About Us Without Us» is particularly relevant in climate governance. Sustainable climate solutions cannot be achieved if one of the most affected groups remains excluded from designing those solutions.

4. What impact has the project had on the women and communities you have worked with so far?

The project has generated important changes at both individual and institutional levels.

Women with disabilities who participated in the project have gained greater confidence and technical knowledge to engage with policymakers and contribute to national climate discussions. Through capacity-building programmes, mentorship, and policy dialogues, many are now participating more actively in national climate platforms and advocating for disability-inclusive climate policies.

At the institutional level, STREVOW has strengthened collaboration between governments, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, women's rights organizations, and climate stakeholders. Country dialogues have created spaces where women with disabilities engage directly with policymakers, helping to ensure that disability inclusion becomes part of climate planning rather than an afterthought.

The project has also contributed to increased awareness among policymakers and development partners on the importance of integrating disability inclusion into climate adaptation, resilience building, and climate finance.

Beyond policy engagement, STREVOW has fostered a growing regional network of women leaders with disabilities who are supporting one another, sharing experiences, and advocating collectively for inclusive climate action across Africa.

5. Looking back, what has been your most memorable moment while leading this project, and what made it so special?

Without question, the most memorable moment has been witnessing the formal recognition of the Global Disability Caucus as an Informal Group of Stakeholders within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

This recognition represents the culmination of years of advocacy by the global disability movement. For the first time, the disability community has an officially acknowledged platform through which Organizations of Persons with Disabilities from around the world can coordinate their engagement, contribute to negotiations, advocate for inclusive climate policies, and participate more meaningfully in discussions on adaptation, climate finance, and Loss and Damage.

For STREVOW, this milestone was particularly significant because the project has actively supported these efforts. We have strengthened the capacity of women with disabilities to understand the UNFCCC process, engage policymakers, and participate confidently in international climate discussions. Through national and regional dialogues, leadership development, and collaboration with disability networks, the project has helped prepare women leaders to contribute to the Global Disability Caucus and to bring their voices into global climate governance.

Although the Caucus is currently recognized as an Informal Group, this achievement marks an important step toward the ultimate goal of securing recognition as an official UNFCCC Constituency with systematic representation alongside other stakeholder groups.

For me, this milestone symbolizes what meaningful inclusion looks like, not simply being invited into the room, but having the opportunity to influence decisions that shape the future of climate action. It demonstrates that when women with disabilities are supported, organized, and empowered, they become powerful leaders capable of shaping national, regional, and global climate policy.

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A group of palm trees in the desert landscape in Dafenaytou, Djibouti, ©ACCF 2025

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