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# ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE FINANCE IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA.

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ADAPTATION FUND

# NATIONAL CONTEXT



- Antigua and Barbuda is a Small Island Development State (SIDS) forming part of the Leeward Islands in Caribbean.
- Has a combined population of around 85,567 persons. The island of Barbuda has a little over 1600 residents.
- In Antigua, women account for 52% of the population while in Barbuda, men account for around 53%
- More than 60% of the entire population of the country lives within the coastal zone.
- Tourism is the most prominent economic activity in the country and is responsible for: i) 80% of the GDP; ii) 85% of all foreign exchange; and iii) employment for 70% of the population.

# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



- SIDS are generally not major contributors to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions, but are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly from rising sea levels.
- The population of Antigua and Barbuda is becoming increasingly vulnerable to extreme climate events, including tropical storms, hurricanes, extended dry periods, floods and rising air temperatures.
- Climate change is increasing the intensity of these events and subsequently the intensity of impacts experienced across the country.

# CONTINUES...

## **ECONOMY AND FINANCE SECTOR**

Decrease in economic activities

Higher chances of unemployment and less income

Increase in private property and health insurance rates

## **WATER SECTOR**

Increase costs of water for household

Severe water rationing, particularly for rural communities

Impact on agriculture, healthcare and other essential services

## **ENERGY SECTOR**

Increased usage of energy for households

Increased electricity cost for households

Limited ability to provide essential services to vulnerable communities (public healthcare, education, etc)

## **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

Increased use of pesticides in agricultural practices

Increased economic vulnerability for the farming community

Widespread implications for local food production and nutrition in the country

## **HEALTHCARE**

Increase in vector-borne diseases. Chikungunya, Dengue

Increased food security and nutrition challenges

Increased costs for fresh local produce

# *GENDER IMPLICATIONS*

- Women account for the large majority of employment within tourism and government sector. In the government sector for example, over 60% employment, and account for the majority of directors and managers in the sector. Significant impact on access to income and employment within these sectors for women when these sectors are compromised
- Women and children (particularly female headed households who are predominately the face of poverty in A&B) depend heavily on public services such as community health clinics. During the extended drought period 2013 – 2016, access to water became a problem for clinics, especially those serving rural communities.
- As dominate persons in the home (child-care, cooking, cleaning etc), and thus the main users of electricity and water in the home. Single parent female headed households are particularly impacted by the increased cost to electricity and water. In addition, vector-borne Diseases like Zika have serious health implications for pregnant women
- Farmers in Antigua, around 80% are male, are particularly vulnerable due to land insecurity and limited access to financial systems

# IMPACT OF HURRICANE IRMA ON BARBUDA

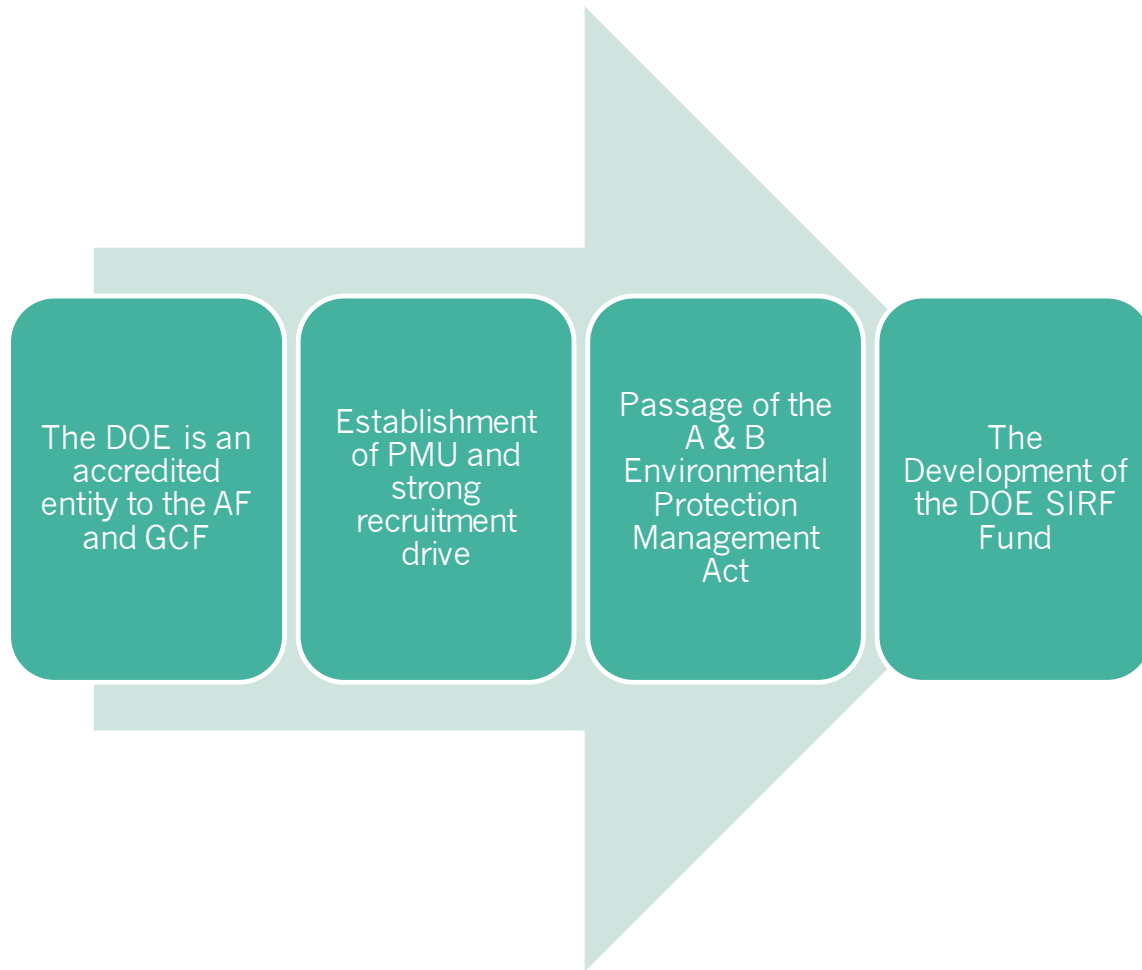
2017



- Due to the impact of Hurricane Irma on the essential services in Barbuda (education, healthcare, telecommunication etC) the entire population had to be evacuated and placed in shelters in Antigua.
- Economic activities (tourism and fisheries sector) have been significantly limited on island.
- The hospital in Barbuda can only provide services similar to a community clinic.
- The island depend entirely on imported produce
- A significant portion of the population depend on temporary electricity post without electricity wired within their homes
- All natural water sources had been polluted. Eg, the water tank for the hospital was contaminated.

# *DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT ADVANCING GENDER MAINSTREAMING*

## **RESULTS**



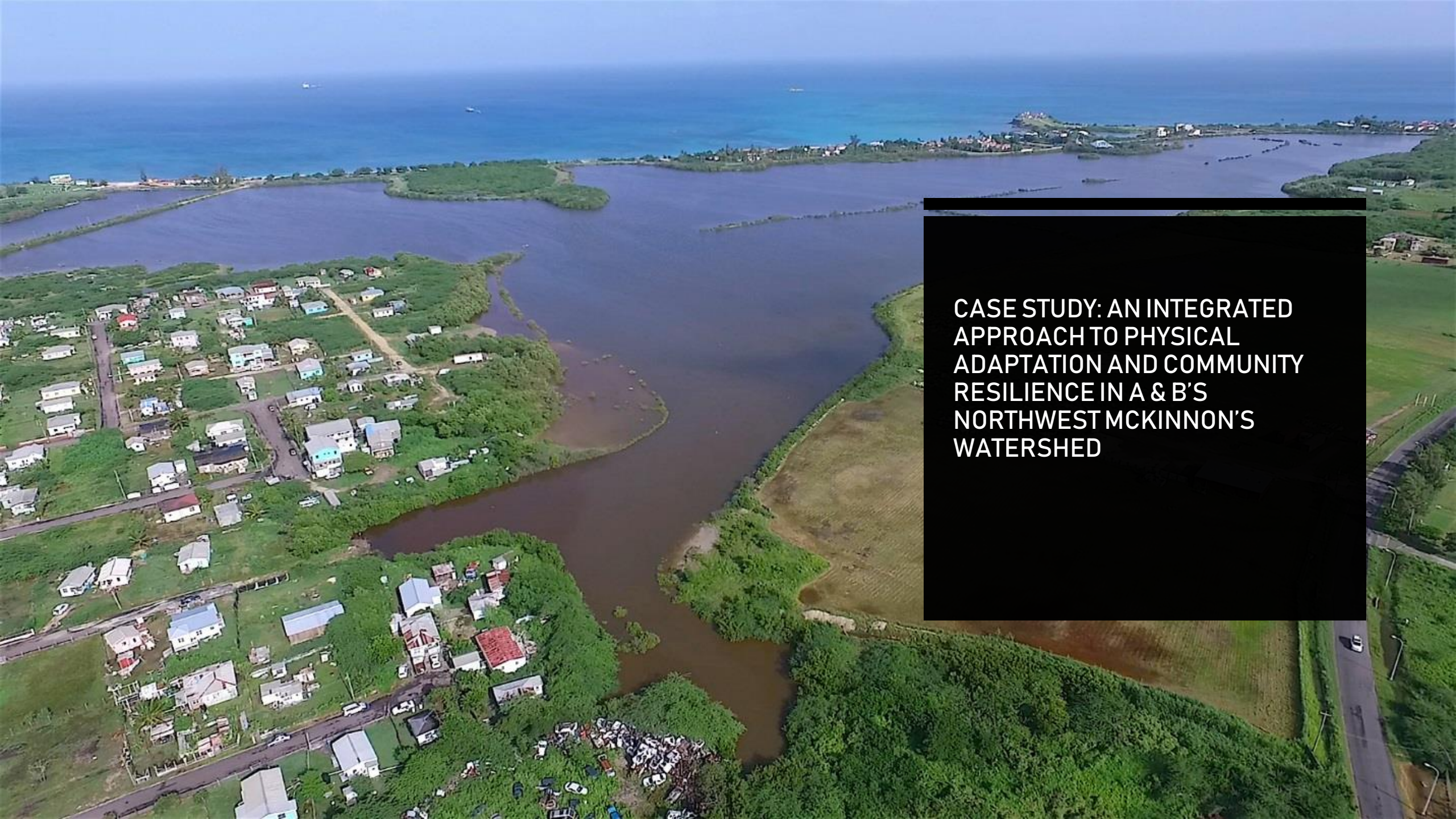
- Access to climate financing which would be otherwise unavailable
- A clear commitment to gender equality and women empowerment through the ESS and Gender Policies
- Project Management Unit (PMU) recruitment targeting young professionals outside of university- resulted in a majority female technical team which is unusual for Antigua. ESS and Gender Officer as well as M&E consultant for monitoring targets
- The passage of the Environment Protection Management Act which has a clear directive to provide financial support to vulnerable groups and communities for disaster preparedness
- Establishment of the SIRF Fund which is the mechanism through which vulnerable communities, including women are able to access financing for adaptation

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# SUSTAINABLE ISLAND RESOURCE FRAMEWORK (SIRF) FUND

- Adaptation to climate change that involves infrastructural works requires large up-front overhead costs, which in the case of small islands cannot be downscaled in proportion to the population's size. This is a major socioeconomic reality that confronts small islands, notwithstanding the benefits of adaptation
- The Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund (SIRF Fund) is to fund projects implemented by government agencies responsible for the implementation of the Environmental Protection and Management Act, 2019 (EPMA) and its Regulations only.
- One particular directive is that the SIRF serves as the financial support for vulnerable groups and communities to adapt to climate change impacts (households, small businesses, small scale farmers





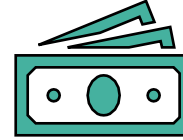
**CASE STUDY: AN INTEGRATED  
APPROACH TO PHYSICAL  
ADAPTATION AND COMMUNITY  
RESILIENCE IN A & B'S  
NORTHWEST MCKINNON'S  
WATERSHED**

■ **COMPONENT 1:** Upgrade Drainage and Waterways to meet projected climate change impacts

■ **COMPONENT 2:** Resolving Loans for Homes in McKinnon's Watershed To Meet New Adaptation Guidelines in the Building Code and Physical Plan

■ **COMPONENT 3:** Adaptation Mainstreaming and Capacity-Building in NGOs and Community Groups to sustain project interventions

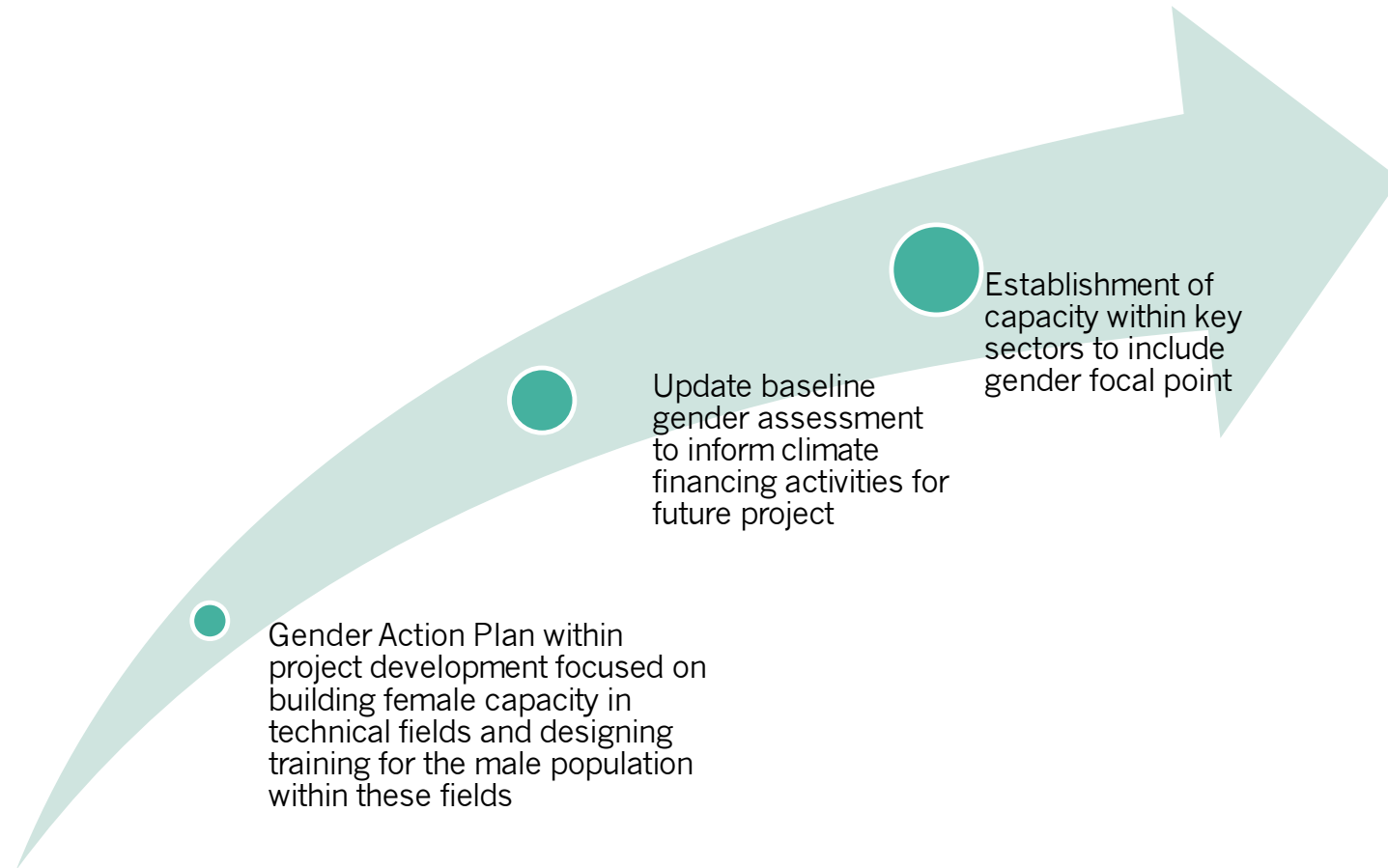
SIRF  
FUND



- ✓ Affordability - Population, single parent households (females) many of whom work in the informal sector and cannot access loans through traditional financial sectors
- ✓ Accessibility – 2% concessional loans to allow as many as possible to access- mandate to have at least 30% female headed households receiving loans – key vulnerable included single female headed households and elderly men who are less likely to receive family
- ✓ Adaptation Costs – ensuring through policy that the costs is not passed to renters

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# *NEXT STEPS*



**QUESTIONS**

