



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE FUND (GTF)
*ARC's initiative for gender transformative actions in
Disaster Risk Management and Financing (DRMF)*

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ACRONYMS

ARC	African Risk Capacity (ARC Agency and its affiliates)
ARC Ltd	African Risk Capacity Insurance Company
ARV	Africa RiskView
AU	African Union
CP	Contingency Planning
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSP	Country Strategic Paper
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRMF	Disaster Risk Management & Financing
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDRR (UNISDR)	United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN Women	United Nations entity for Gender Equality
WFP	World Food Programme

1 CONTEXT

In the course of in-country consultations for the elaboration of ARC Gender Strategy, partners, especially CSO partners, expressed their desire to work with ARC to transform disasters to positive events through the reconstruction of resilient communities where discriminatory mentalities and attitudes that hinder socio-economic recovery are transformed. Whereas, this desire falls outside of ARC's core mandate, which is limited to Early Warning and Response, ARC is conscious that a positive response has the potential of enhancing the sustainability of ARC's interventions and ensuring ARC's consistent presence/visibility in the Member State. ARC therefore committed itself, through a dedicated study, to explore ways and means of supporting activities aimed at building back better which are identified in the gender analysis that Member States are expected to conduct during the scoping missions.

The guiding questions of the study were hinged on the concerns of stakeholders for the establishment of an instrument dedicated to supporting activities capable of transforming mentalities, gender discriminatory norms and practices especially at the micro and meso levels of the community. This initiative would ensure that unequal power relations and systemic discrimination, harmful norms and practices, are challenged. Furthermore, as activities under such a mechanism, could be carried out prior to disasters and may continue after response, this will **not only provide incentives to Member States but will ensure ARC's presence in the countries prior to 'trigger' and well after pay-out thus ensuring a more consistent development relationship with Member States and partners.**

A summary of the findings of the study shows that:

- An innovative, non-classical Fund dedicated to gender transformative issues in DRM is an appropriate solution
- ARC is an appropriate catalyst for such a Fund
- The Ministries of Gender would be ideal institutions for the coordination of the Fund in Member States

The study made the following **key recommendations**:

- That ARC should establish a funding mechanism towards gender transformation to complement its DRM/F operations in Member States for greater sustainability and resilience building
- That the Gender Ministries in ARC Member States should be capacitated to coordinate the Fund

The findings and recommendations of the study are also supported by the report of the in-country consultations carried out in 9 countries prior to the development of the ARC Gender Strategy.

2 DEFINITION

The proposed initiative would be called the **Gender Transformative Fund (GTF)** and would operate as a basket funding mechanism. The 'basket' will be principally funded by Country-based Development Partners who would, through a resource mobilisation action supported by ARC, pool un-earmarked resources for the implementation of activities capable of transforming discriminatory gender mentalities in the context of DRM. External donors would be encouraged to complement efforts of MS. Implementable activities of the Fund would be identified during a gender analysis initiated by ARC in the course of the scoping mission as agreed in ARC's Gender Strategy¹ and integrated in the Operation Plan developed in the course of Contingency Planning.

3 MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

ARC's Gender Transformative Fund's (GTF) is imbedded in objective 3 of the ARC Gender Strategy which aligns with Strategy 3 of the ARC Strategy - Grow. The said objective of the Gender Strategy seeks to **engage in sustained policy dialogue and advocacy for a gender transformative DRM policy environment**. In line with the risk financing instrument of ARC, this objective aims to contribute to a policy environment that enables gender sensitive culture of insurance as well as other DRM financing mechanisms including social protection programmes. In this perspective, the Gender Transformative Fund will be operational in Member States that hold a valid Insurance policy from the ARC Group and will serve as an advocacy tool to provide incentive to ARC Member States and complement ARC's sovereign insurance scheme. With a **mission to strengthen gender transformation in disaster risk management and financing (DRMF)** the specific objectives of the GTF are:

- **To ensure gender transformation:** This will be done through the provision of support to
 - activities capable of transforming mentalities, gender discriminatory norms and practices especially at the micro and meso levels of the community
 - advocacy for equal power relations
 - campaigns against systemic discrimination, harmful norms and practices
- **To support the creation of an enabling environment for ARC's operations:** This will be done through advocacy and sensitization efforts that ensure
 - an inclusive partnership bringing together non-traditional partners such as the Ministry of Gender, UNWomen, CSOs, Women Advocacy groups as well as INGOs
 - wider visibility to ARC's operation through gender campaigns that go beyond the macro to the meso and micro levels.

4 EXPECTED RESULTS

Through the successful implementation of the objectives of the Gender Transformative Fund, the following two main results are expected:

- **Transformed mentalities** in Member States leading to greater progress in gender equality and women empowerment in DRM operations
- **Enabling environment created** leading to greater visibility of and inclusivity to ARC's operations by all relevant stakeholders.

¹ The ARC Gender Strategy was unanimously approved by the ARC Board in September 2019

5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following four principles will guide the work of the GT fund:

- **Country-centered:** the GTF is focused on transforming gender issues within ARC MS. Mobilisation and utilization of funds under the framework of the GTF will be contextually adapted and fit-for-purpose in each MS.
- **Simplicity:** the GTF will start small and stay simple. It will avoid cumbersome procedures and complement existing ARC's operational modalities as developed in the Project Cycle.
- **Partnership:** The GTF will collaborate with all relevant stakeholders in the MS, including donors, International organisations, CSOs, private sector actors and community leaders in the disaster-prone zones.
- **Transparency:** the GTF will operate with a high degree of transparency in all its phases including resource mobilization, utilization and monitoring & evaluation.

6 STRUCTURE

The GTF will operate through the Gender machineries in the MS in close collaboration with the DRM structures/institutions. In this perspective, as developed in the ARC's Gender Strategy, **a sub-group on Gender, Advocacy and Communication (GAD) will be established in the Technical Working Group (TWG)**. This sub-group will bring together the Ministry in charge of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) and relevant actors in the CSO, Media and the Private sector. A ToR for this sub-group will be developed in the course of the pilot of the GTF. In line with ensuring that the four principles described above are adhered to, the following structure will guide the GTF:

- The GTF will be **operated by the GAD sub-group in MS and will be coordinated by the Ministry in charge of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**
- The Gender Division of ARC will **provide advisory and technical guidance** to the GTF through the GAD
- **GTF financial resources mobilised within the country will be managed by MS** using their existing/relevant financial instruments
- **GTF resources provided by donors outside the respective Member State will be managed by the ARC Group** through its existing accounting and auditing processes.

7 OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

In line with its principle of simplicity, the GTF will not seek to establish new operational guidelines but will endeavour to operate within ARC's existing frameworks of the project cycle and the Gender Strategy. In this perspective, the GTF's annual actions will be integrated in ARC's annual Gender Work Plan and Budget and will involve the following phases:

Resource mobilization: This will take place in MS after the successful conclusion of an ARC Insurance Policy uptake. Resource mobilization activity will be programmed as a one-day event involving a policy dialogue session and culminating in a Donors' Round Table. This event will be led by the Ministry of Gender and will be organized under the auspices of the Gender, Advocacy and Communication sub-

group of the TWG. ARC Gender Unit will provide necessary guidance. The Fund will seek to mobilise a minimum of one hundred thousand (100,000) USD per MS per premium uptake period.

Fund Utilization: Resources in the GTF will be used throughout the premium uptake period irrespective of the MS having a pay-out or not. Activities that would benefit from the Fund will be mainly in the category of sensitization and advocacy initiatives. Such activities would be part of the recommendation of the Gender Analysis that would be conducted during the scoping mission. The recommended activities will also be integrated in the Operation Plan of the Contingency Planning Process but will be permitted to be implemented before a Final Implementation Plan (FIP) as their implementation is not dependent on a ‘trigger’.

Reporting. Reporting process will serve as a peer review and will be carried out in the context of the annual General Assembly of the Gender and DRM platform bringing together ARC MS and interested AU MS. The report will be prepared by the GAC subgroup of the TWG and supported by the M&E Unit of ARC. The report will serve as experience sharing/lessons learnt tool and will also provide background information for planned publications of the Gender and DRM ThinkTank.

8 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The GTF will align with the 2020 - 2024 Action Plan of the Gender Strategy. In this context and as planned, the year 2020 is earmarked for the setting up of the framework of the GTF culminating in its approval by relevant ARC instances (Board and CoP). The Fund will then be rolled out from 2021 in MS that meet the criteria mentioned above, notably having a valid ARC insurance policy for the year in question. In addition, as the Fund is a complement to ARC’s interventions, roll out will be demand-driven with requesting MS willing to be committed to the full Gender integration process as detailed in the Gender Strategy.

9 EXIT STRATEGY

The GTF will be rolled out until the end of the Gender Strategy in 2024 and will be reviewed alongside the comprehensive review of the Gender Strategy in 2024. During this period ARC MS will be eligible to participate repeatedly on annual basis as long as they have a valid ARC Insurance Policy in the year in question. Participation of returning MS to the GTF will also depend on the satisfactory use of the Funds mobilised in the previous year of participation as revealed in satisfactory financial and activity reports.