



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of
Darlington**
Minister for International Development and
Africa

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Sarah Champion MP
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 July 2026

Dear Sarah,

International Climate Finance: oral evidence session follow up

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Committee on 30 June as part of your enquiry into International Climate Finance. My officials committed to follow up in writing on: join up of climate finance in Ethiopia; how we capture data on how we are supporting women and girls; programme examples where we are delivering at the local level; whether the Just Transitions for Water Security Programme operates in Malawi; and an update on a learning synthesis report. I also wanted to provide further information on the programming that was transferred to Defra.

Ethiopia

On the example of how we are supporting better join up between sources of funding in Ethiopia, we are making the transition from traditional donor to an investment-led model, shaping the green transition in one of the world's fastest developing economies. Through the strategic deployment of UK support, we are catalysing significantly larger volumes of climate finance, delivering improved energy access, stronger outcomes for nature, and greater climate resilience. Last year alone, £1.2 million of UK-funded technical assistance supported Ethiopia to bid into global climate funds (e.g. Green Climate Fund), which mobilised \$60 million from international climate funds. Building on this success, we are now working to mobilise even more climate finance through innovative carbon market transactions and green bond financing.

Programming delivered at the local level

The UK's LIFE-AR (Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience) is supporting locally led climate action by channelling finance and decision-making to national and community level. The programme enables vulnerable communities to identify and prioritise their own resilience needs, from water access to climate-resilient livelihoods.

This approach strengthens inclusion, improves effectiveness and ensures adaptation efforts reflect the priorities of those most exposed to climate impacts.

The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS) supports community preparedness in countries such as Chad and Malawi, by working with local communities to ensure that early warnings are disseminated through local radio and community networks and they can easily interpret warnings and take early action. This helps communities access, understand and act on warnings before disaster strikes and ensures climate finance reaches people most exposed to floods and droughts.

Women and Girls

Tackling violence against women and girls is a priority for the Foreign Secretary and 90% of all new ODA programmes must have a focus on gender equality. We capture data on women and girls through our Aid Management Platform where programme teams record against the OECD DAC Gender Marker.

In 2025 we updated our [GEDSI guidance](#)¹ for ICF programming and are working with programme teams to deliver programmes that are empowering and transformative for women and girls. Under this guidance, all new ICF programmes should be designed to be "GEDSI empowering" at a minimum. This would usually equate to scoring 1/'Significant' or 2/'Principal' under the OECD DAC Gender Marker. The ICF portfolio will follow a twin-track approach to GEDSI, whereby as well as GEDSI mainstreaming, an increasing portion of ICF programmes will be designed to be "GEDSI transformative" This would usually equate to scoring a 2/principal under the OECD DAC Gender Marker.

Through our [Annual ICF Results publication](#)², we disaggregate our ICF Key results by gender, age, disability and location where possible and are constantly improving this our coverage in these areas.

Just Transitions for Water Security

The Just Transitions for Water Security programme does operate in Malawi.

Learning Synthesis

On the learning synthesis report, this is not yet available. Work is underway to complete the report, which is expected to be finalised by January 2027. It will bring together learning and evidence from across the portfolio to inform future programming.

Cross Departmental Collaboration

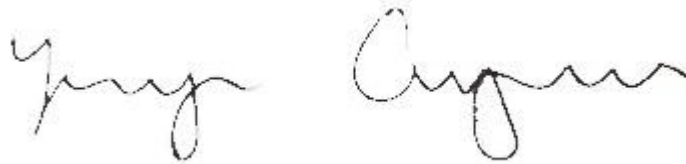
¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a450c041c8bd7ce25a5e8b5/ICF-GEDSI-Guidance-Note-for-Delivery-Partners.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-international-climate-finance-results-2025/uk-international-climate-finance-results-2025>

In our discussion on coordination on ICF across government departments, I referenced areas where the FCDO is transferring funding to Defra. The intention is that we transfer funding for our Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST) programme which aims to improve vulnerable coastal communities' resilience to climate change and prosperity from a more sustainable use of their marine environment. This will make sure we are making the most of Defra's expertise on oceans policy and ensure join up between our domestic and international marine work. This is just one example of us driving closer strategic and operational coordination between our departments.

We are working together closely across departments – at official and Ministerial level – to set strategic direction, monitor, manage and strengthen reporting of the ICF portfolio. The [ICF4 Strategy](#)³ which we published a few weeks ago is itself good evidence of this successful cross-departmental collaboration. The Strategy sets out how UK climate programming will: strengthen the resilience of communities, economies and the natural systems that support them, safeguard and sustain essential ecosystems like forests and oceans, support sustainable agriculture and food systems, and help to transform the global energy system to deliver clean and affordable energy for all. We will target UK support towards the poorest, the most vulnerable to climate change and nature loss, and to the most transformative issues.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baroness Chapman', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister for International Development and Africa

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-climate-finance-strategy-2026>