

Concept Note

Does Climate Finance Reach the Vulnerable? Measuring Adaptation Outcomes in Asia-Pacific

An event at Civil Society Policy Forum, IMF-World Bank Group 2026 Annual Meetings

Event	Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF): Annual Meetings 2026
Date	Friday 16 October 2026
Time	09:00–10:30, Bangkok time (UTC+7)
Format	In-person with hybrid participation
Lead Organizer	Stockholm Environment Institute Asia (SEI Asia)
Co-organisers	APRACA; Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women; UNDP Climate Finance Network; Heifer International; Thammasat University
Audience	Approximately 130 participants in person and by invitation – climate-finance professionals, regulators, multilateral institutions, academics and civil society
Venue	Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre (QSNCC), Room 2-210C, Bangkok Thailand
Language	English

1. Why this event

Climate and adaptation finance is increasingly judged not only by the volume of capital mobilized, but also by whether it produces meaningful resilience outcomes for people and communities exposed to climate risks. This shift raises a practical question for Asia-Pacific: does finance actually reach those who face the greatest vulnerability, and how should institutions know whether it has strengthened their capacity to prepare for, absorb and recover from climate shocks?

Low-income women, smallholder farmers, rural communities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and other groups underserved by mainstream finance often face multiple barriers to accessing adaptation finance. These include limited collateral, high transaction costs, weak local delivery infrastructure, gaps in climate-risk information, unsuitable financial products, and policy or regulatory frameworks that do not adequately recognize local adaptation needs.

At the same time, efforts to make adaptation more investable can create new risks if finance is poorly designed. Lending, blended finance and other return-seeking instruments can extend access, but they can also shift climate and repayment risks onto households that have limited ability to absorb additional debt. The challenge is therefore not simply to mobilize more finance, but to design financing systems that are inclusive, affordable, accountable and demonstrably linked to resilience outcomes.

The session will bring evidence and practical experience from Asia-Pacific into this discussion. It draws on the Inclusive Climate Finance for Vulnerable Communities in Asia-Pacific (ICCAP) initiative and related regional work on financial inclusion, adaptation finance, locally grounded delivery systems and public-private collaboration.

2. Session purpose

The session will provide an interactive policy dialogue on how adaptation finance can reach vulnerable communities more effectively and how resilience outcomes can be measured in ways that reflect real changes in people's ability to manage climate risks. It is designed as a problem-solving discussion rather than a project showcase, with structured audience participation and a focus on practical recommendations.

3. Key questions

1. What should “enhanced resilience to climate risks” mean in practice? How can outcome measurement go beyond counting beneficiaries to capture affordability, delivery timing, exclusion, accessibility, and whether households are better able to withstand future shocks?
2. When does making adaptation investable expand inclusion, and when can it transfer risk to vulnerable households? What safeguards, pricing approaches, grant components, guarantees, first-loss mechanisms or non-collateralized products can distinguish responsible finance from over-indebtedness or maladaptation?
3. What can governments, regulators, financial service providers, development partners and civil society change to improve the delivery of adaptation finance? Where are the practical opportunities in taxonomies, prudential treatment, product design, delivery infrastructure, data and accountability?

4. How can community-facing organizations help verify whether adaptation finance is reaching intended groups and producing outcomes that matter locally? What would stronger bottom-up accountability look like in practice?

4. Objectives

- Bring Asia-Pacific evidence and community-facing experience into the discussion on adaptation-finance outcomes and resilience measurement.
- Identify the safeguards and financing features that separate meaningful financial inclusion from inappropriate climate-risk transfer and household over-indebtedness.
- Clarify practical roles for regulators, financial service providers, development partners and civil society in improving access, product design, accountability and local delivery.
- Generate actionable recommendations for the World Bank Group, IMF, governments, donors and civil society organizations on strengthening inclusive adaptation-finance ecosystems.

5. Indicative Programme

Time	Segment	Focus
09:00–09:10	Welcome and opening keynote	Why adaptation finance is failing to reach vulnerable communities and what needs to change.
09:10–09:20	Session framing	Context on inclusive adaptation finance, resilience measurement and the practical questions for the panel.
09:20–09:55	Moderated panel dialogue	Perspectives from community-facing finance, innovative finance, climate-finance policy and resilience practice.
09:55–10:20	Audience dialogue and Q&A	Structured discussion with civil society, practitioners, policymakers and development partners.
10:20–10:30	Closing and recommendations	Synthesis of practical recommendations and next steps.

6. Speakers and contributors

- Annika Markovic, Engagement and Impact Director, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

- Akm Sohel, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief, UN Wing, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.
- Corrado Topi, Centre for Finance for Sustainability Director, SEI Asia.
- Cristina Gregorio, Regional Climate Finance Specialist, UNDP Climate Finance Network.
- Imran Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women.
- Pranjit Talukdar, Regional Catalyst for Access to Innovative Finance, Asia, Heifer International.
- Silvestre Z. Barrameda, Jr., Executive Director, National Resilience Council, Philippines; UNDRR ARISE Board Member.

7. Intended audience

The session is intended for civil society organizations, community-facing institutions, financial service providers, regulators, government representatives, development finance institutions, multilateral organizations, researchers, impact investors and other stakeholders working on climate adaptation, financial inclusion and resilience in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

8. Outputs and expected outcomes

- A concise set of practical recommendations emerging from the panel and audience discussion.
- A short post-session knowledge product, such as a policy note, article or blog, translating the discussion into messages for future action.
- Inputs that can inform ongoing discussions on adaptation-finance outcome measurement, accountability and the design of inclusive financing mechanisms.
- New connections among community-facing organizations, finance practitioners, policymakers and development partners working to improve adaptation-finance delivery in Asia-Pacific.

9. Practical details

- Official CSPF programme: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2026/10/13/civil-society-policy-forum-annual-meetings-2026#tabs-ef78cd5341-item-3439f7ee05-tab>.