

RFA 2025-0022-RFA - Annex G: Key Definitions

This document is intended as a reference for applicants to understand how CCIP defines the following terminology as they complete the RFA application. Responses to questions 6-12 in the application form are part of the technical approach. Applicants are expected to select the appropriate responses for each of the categories presented in these questions. At least one response in all categories is required for all applicants. Responses should reflect the content of the applicant's technical approach for the activity proposed.

Renewable Energy Resources¹ refer to energy from resources that are naturally and continually replenished over a short period of time (not millions of years, as with fossil fuels.) Renewable energy resources include sunlight, wind, water, tides, biomass and geothermal heat.

Climate Adaptation² is the process of adjusting to the actual or expected climate and its effects in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In the context of this strategy, adaptation interventions seek to strengthen resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Climate Resilience can be generally defined as the capacity of a system to maintain function in the face of stresses imposed by climate change and to adapt the system to be better prepared for future climate impacts.

Resilience³ refers to the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

Conversion Technologies refer to processes or technologies that convert raw materials, waste, or byproducts into usable forms of energy, often reducing waste and improving resource efficiency. This can include waste-to-energy technologies or systems that convert biomass into electricity.

Energy Efficiency⁴ involves minimizing energy use while maintaining the same level of service. This means adopting practices and technologies that reduce energy consumption and emissions, often linked to climate-related goals like reducing greenhouse gases.

¹ Glossary Terms and Definitions | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for International Development (usaid.gov)
<https://www.usaid.gov/energy/mini-grids/glossary#c>

² Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report; <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/>

³ USAID Climate Strategy 2022-2030, <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/USAID-Climate-Strategy-2022-2030.pdf>

⁴ Performance Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention | International Finance Corporation (IFC), <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2012/ifc-performance-standard-3>

Additionality⁵ is the net positive difference expected to result from a donor-business partnership, (i.e., the positive change that otherwise would not happen without public support). It signifies the extent to which activities (and associated results) are larger in scale, are at a higher quality, take place more quickly, take place at a different location, or take place at all as a result of donor intervention.

Gender Equity and Social inclusion (GESI) refers to specific consideration for both gender equity and social inclusion in programmatic and project design. Gender equity is the process of being fair to both women and men. To ensure fairness, specific measures often need to be put into place (called a “gender intervention” or “affirmative action”) to compensate for historical, social, political or economic disadvantages that prevent women and other vulnerable groups from operating on an equal footing. Social inclusion is achieved when all people, regardless of their sex, age, ethnicity, social status, income, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability etc., have the same rights and opportunities to contribute to and benefit from development efforts.

⁵ USAID Private Sector Engagement: Evidence and Learning Plan (2019).
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/PSE_Evidence-and-Learning-Plan_081219.pdf