



Women's Voices in Coastal Climate Adaptation

A Feminist Participatory Research Initiative
in Ghana's Coastal Communities



Project Duration:
September 2024
– **June 2025**



Prepared by:
**Institute of Climate
and Environmental
Governance (ICEG)**



In collaboration with:
**Community Women
Leaders & Peer
Researchers**



Funded by: **Gender
& Environment
Data Alliance
(GEDA)**

Centering women's voices
and leadership in climate
resilience



ICEG



Why Coastal Women's Voices Matter

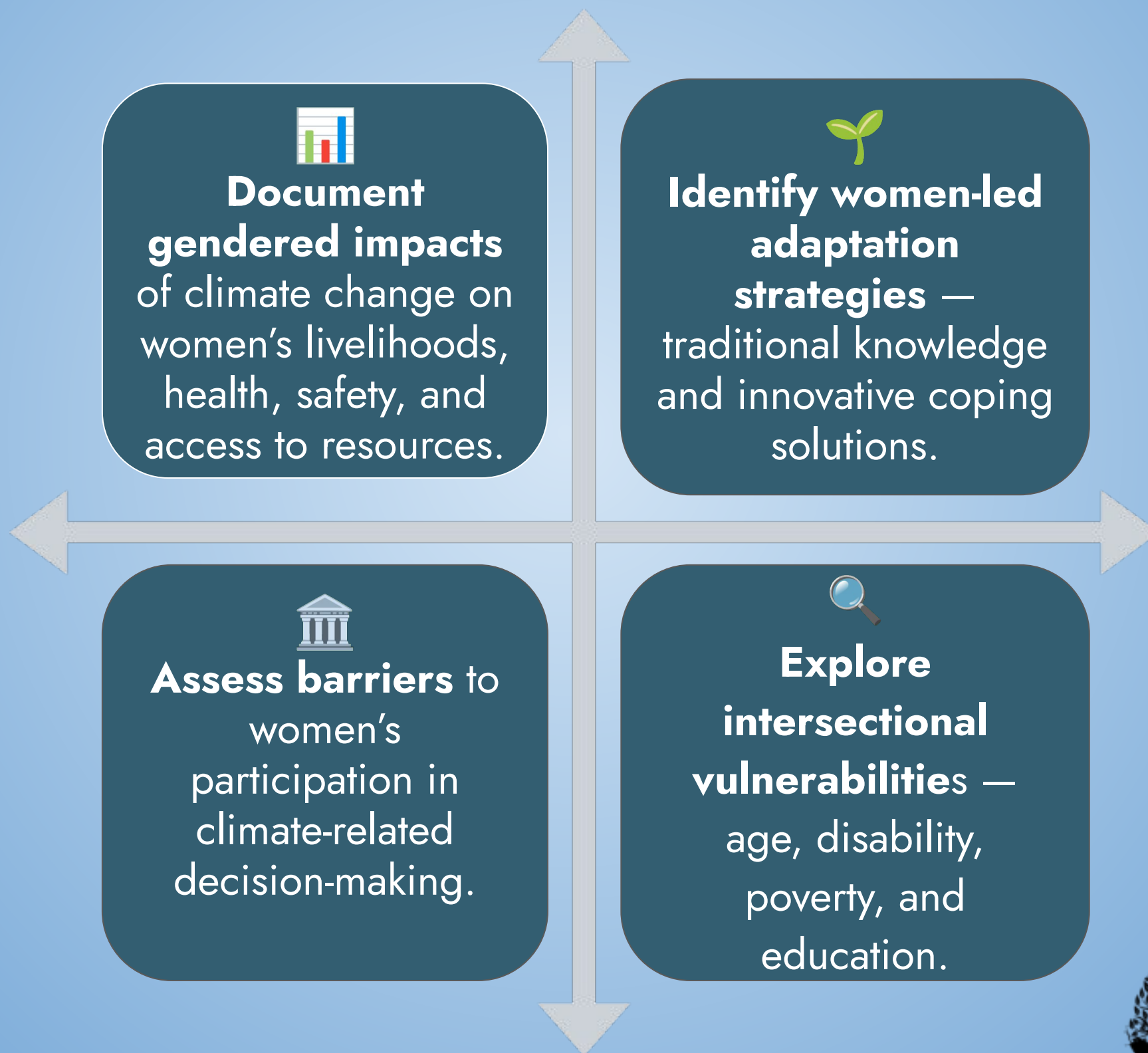
Ghana's coastal communities face **rising seas, erosion, and flooding.**

High exposure to climate risks

 carry **disproportionate burdens:** livelihoods, caregiving, food security.

Project Objectives

What We Set Out to Do



Our Approach: FPAR



Centering Women's Voices in Research



Training: Women trained as peer researchers



Community Engagement: Focus groups, storytelling circles



Participatory Mapping:
Identifying risks & resources



Validation: Communities reviewed findings





What We Delivered

DO 01	Peer Researcher Training Manual — six women trained as peer researchers	
DO 02	Final Research Report — comprehensive data & analysis.	
DO 03	Policy Brief —18 pages with recommendations.	
DO 04	Two Community Action Plans — for Keta and Ada East.	
DO 05	Infographics — highlighting key findings.	
DO 06	Video Testimonials & Documentary — amplifying women's voices.	
DO 07	Regional Workshops + Engagements — sharing findings with policymakers and the public.	

Key Findings: Gendered Impacts



Women Bear the Heaviest Climate Burdens



Livelihoods collapsing:

Fishing & salt mining disrupted → women lose income.

"Previously, we would buy fish for GHS 15, but now the same amount sells for GHS 120. We can't afford to buy, and when we do, nobody can pay the high price we must sell it for."
— Woman, Anloga



Household strain: Food insecurity & caregiving burdens intensify.

"We carry stones to block the water, but it hurts our backs and makes us sick." —
Woman, Kedzi



Health challenges:

Physical strain, anxiety, and waterborne diseases rising.



ICEG

Women's Agency & Traditional Knowledge

 Women as Innovators and Knowledge-Holders

Traditional knowledge:

Weather prediction, lagoon management, seasonal indicators.

Collective action:

Women lead drainage digging, cleanups, communal labor.

Adaptation & resilience:

Food rationing, rotating savings groups, microfinance.

"When we see mist in the morning, it means the sea will be calm. That's when fisherfolk should go out." — Woman, Anloga

"We can't wait for the Assembly. We take our tools and dig the gutters ourselves so water can pass." — Woman, Kedikorpe

Key Finding 3: Barriers to Women's Participation

🚫 Barriers that Silence Women's Voices



Institutional exclusion:

Women not invited to sea defense or planning meetings.



Economic constraints:

Caregiving + poverty limit participation.



Cultural norms: Women discouraged or shamed for speaking publicly.



Intersectional burdens:




Elderly, disabled, and young mothers face extra risks.

"We are not called when they discuss the sea defense or fishing issues. Only the men go to those meetings." — Woman, Keta District

"If you speak, people say you're a disrespectful woman." — Woman, Azizanya

Keta vs. Ada East: Different Challenges, Shared Struggles




Keta (Volta Region)

-  Coastal erosion & tidal waves
-  Collapse of fishing industry → food insecurity
-  Saltwater intrusion destroying farms

“The sea takes our houses away. We build, and it comes again. We have no rest.” — Woman, Kedikorpe

“When the dam opened, it flooded everything. We carried only our clothes. Our farms and houses were gone.” — Woman, Pediatorokope

Ada (Greater Accra Region)

-  2023 Akosombo Dam spillage → mass displacement
-  Homes & farmland destroyed by dual river & sea flooding
-  Infrastructure (schools, sanitation) severely damaged



ICEG

Pathways for Action

**Knowledge
integration**

Policy



**Capacity
building**



**Invest in
Climate
Readiness**



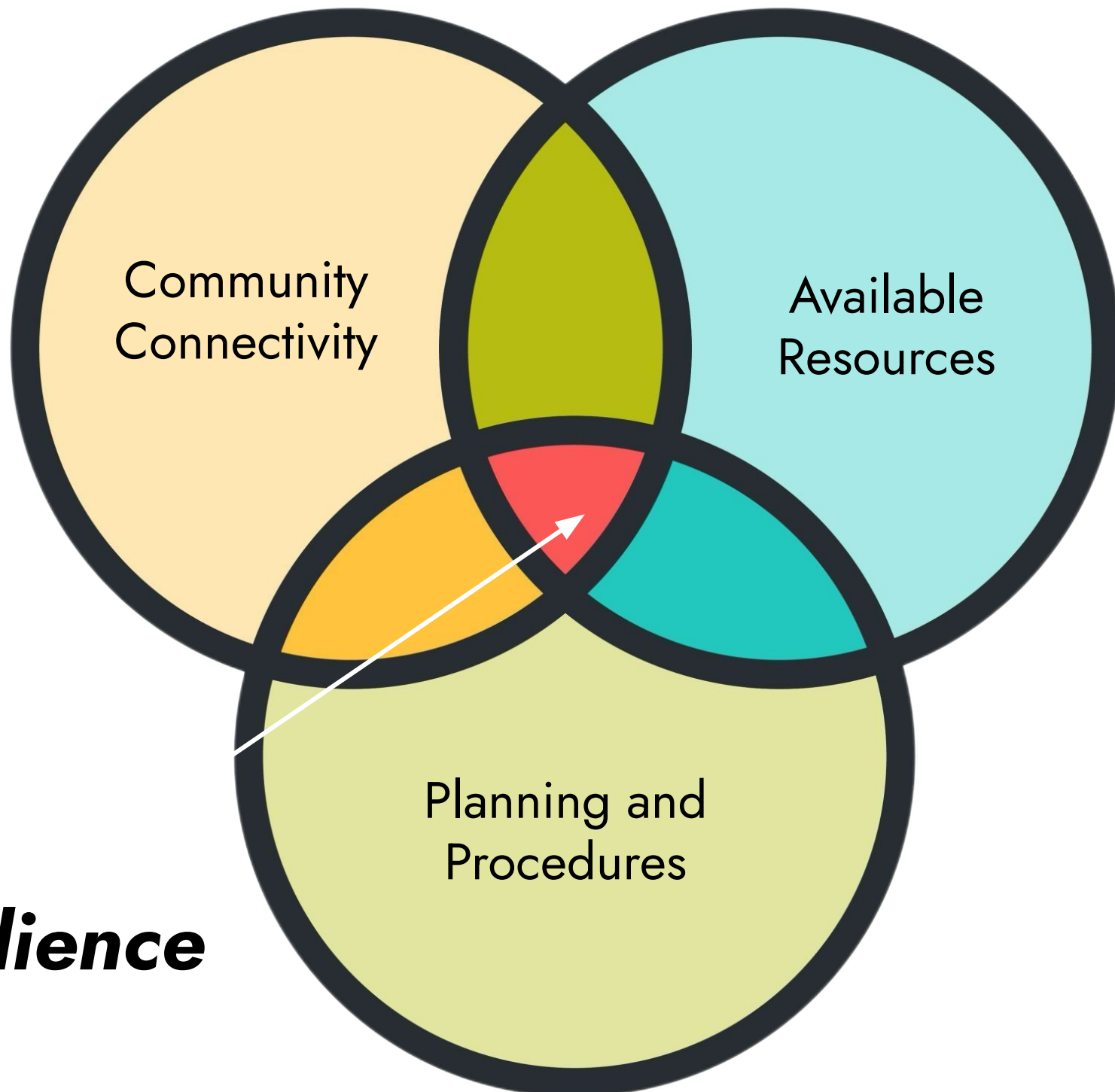
From Margins to the Center: Funding Adaptation for Climate Resilience



The smartest protection against climate shocks is also the most underfunded.



Resilience and adaptation must move from the margins to the center of everything.

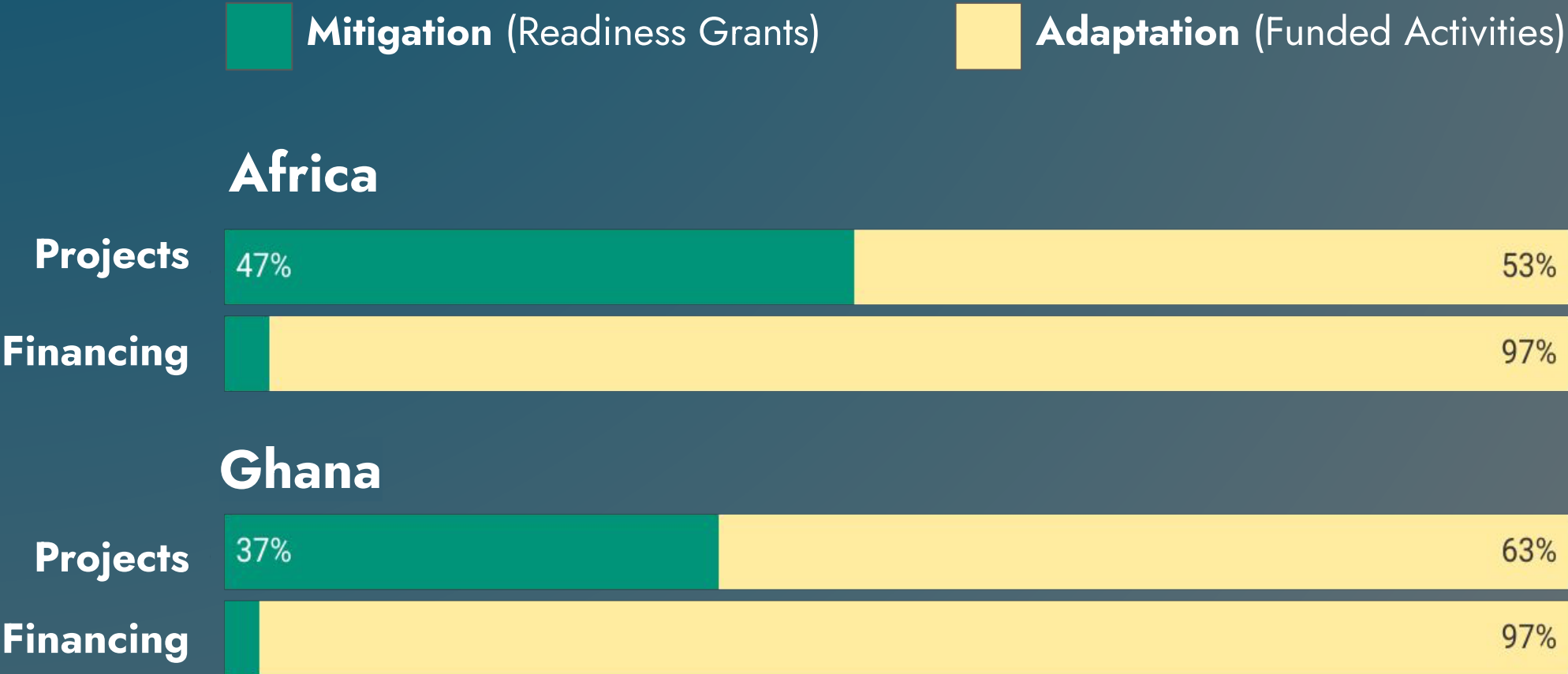


Resilience



Africa's Climate Finance is Skewed: Projects Over Preparation

Resources flow to fighting impacts on the back foot instead of preparing to withstand them.

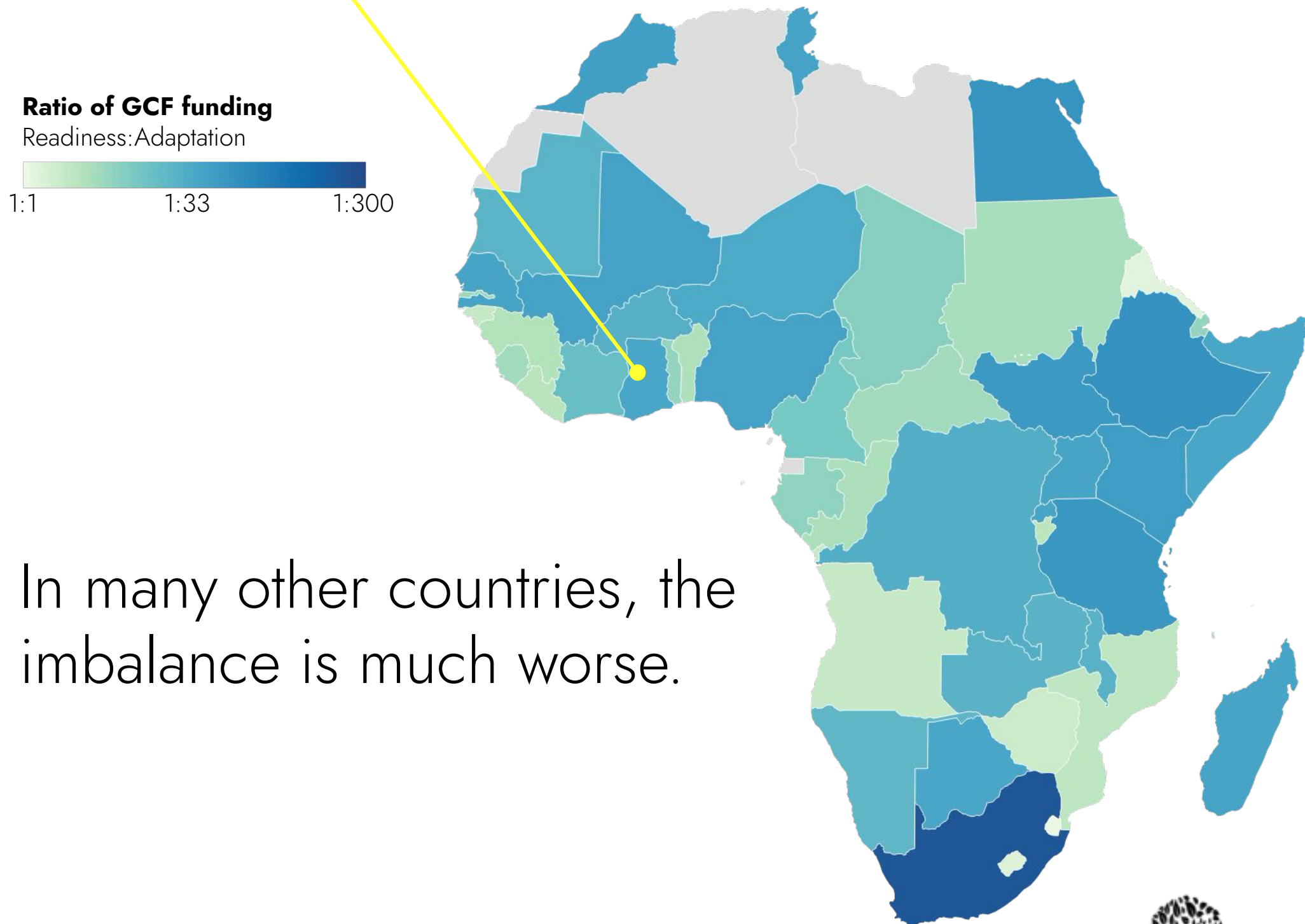


In Ghana, while 37% of projects are Readiness Grants for mitigation, they receive just 3% of overall funding.

Source: Green Climate Fund Open Data Library.



In **Ghana**, Readiness is funded at **1/36th** the level of Adaptation.



In many other countries, the imbalance is much worse.

Source: Green Climate Fund Open Data Library.

Note: Countries are shaded by the ratio of Green Climate Fund allocations to Adaptation vs. Readiness. The midpoint is set at the average for the countries presented (1:33) for comparative purposes. Countries where no data is available are indicated in grey.



Rebalancing for Resilience: Ghana's Opportunity

**Safeguard fiscal
stability**



**High-Quality
Decisions**



**Better
Performance**

**Reduce disaster
losses**



**Inclusive
Environment**



**Disaster
Management**

**Make adaptation
projects more
sustainable**



Ready or Not: Ghana's Climate Crossroads

Building resilience in the storm:
The difference between surviving
and thriving.





Watch: Women's Voices in Coastal Climate Adaptation

