

WATER AND SANITATION



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IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Impacts of climate change are increasingly being felt by people around the world and impacts are projected to increase in the coming years. Changing weather patterns, rising temperatures and increasing occurrence of droughts and floods are typical impacts making life more difficult among the poor in the Global South. Climate change challenges poverty reduction and resilience. For all interventions, it is important to target the most vulnerable as part of the approach as they are the most exposed to climate change impacts.

HOW TO USE THIS CLIMATE INTEGRATION TOOL

This climate integration tool is primarily intended for assisting organisations, which are not having climate change actions as their core area of operation. As CISU, we want to **support our member organisations to further integrate climate action in their development work.** Integrating climate actions is defined as the process of inclusion of climate change related actions into sector implementation, outcomes and policies.

How to use this tool

The climate tool has two main sections, one on **ENTRY POINTS** with **KEY QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ANALYSIS** related to climate action integration when developing your intervention. Here you will also find inspiration on where to look for relevant information.

The second section **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTEGRATION** has examples and practical

inspiration on **ACTIVITIES AND APPROACHES**, as well as examples on outcomes and indicators for climate action integration.

When should we think climate?

In the intervention preparation phase, ask yourselves and your partners the following questions to find out whether climate actions are relevant:

- **Is the target group impacted by climate change?**
- **Is the thematic focus impacted by or impacting on climate change?**

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, this climate tool can provide inspiration on how to get started with integrating climate actions in your intervention!

CLIMATE ACTION

It covers adaptation, mitigation, risk reduction and resilience building. It is linked to disaster risk reduction and closely linked to green economy and environmental management.

ADAPTATION

Climate change adaptation is the processes by which human beings and societies adjust to changes in climate by making changes in production systems and social and economic organisation in order to reduce vulnerability to changing climatic conditions. Adaptation is closely linked to building resilience of societies and contributes to people's adaptive capacity. In many ways, it resembles good sustainable development.

MITIGATION

Mitigation is limited to the processes by which human beings and societies address the various human activities with potential to reduce emission of greenhouse gas. With CISU funded interventions having a focus on poverty reduction, the focus in climate action integration will naturally be on adaptation. Mitigation should be understood mainly as a co-benefit in the process.

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HOW-TO-GUIDE ON INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE ACTION IN DEVELOPMENT WORK



ENTRY POINTS

Water and sanitation is a key sector in relation to integration of climate action. The water and sanitation sector must become more efficient in using the available water resources and improve in providing water access and sanitation coverage. To achieve this, the sector also needs to adapt to climate change and natural resource pressure. Central to water and sanitation is the need to focus on enhancing resilience of people, communities and water related ecosystem services. **Typically, it is a sector significantly impacted by climate change.**

Sector Policies

When addressing climate action integration in the water and sanitation sector, a number of different entry points can be used. The entry points for seeking information include the water and sanitation **sector policies, plans and programmes** for the specific countries. There might also be **water and sanitation sector adaption plans** for some of the countries.

National Climate Plans

Other entry points are the **NAPs, the NAPAs, the NDCs and the National Communications** for the respective countries. The NAPs can be accessed here: UNFCCC-NAPs. The NAPAs can be accessed here: UNFCCC-NAPAs. The NDCs can be accessed here: UNFCCC-NDCs, and the National Communications can be accessed here: UNFCCC - National Communications. All the documents have information relevant to water and sanitation. Typically, they propose a lot of actions to address climate action integration in the water and sanitation sector.

TYPICAL IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

- Decreasing or more erratic access to water influenced by increasing floods, droughts and water scarcity
- Destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure meaning increased difficulties in accessing clean water and proper sanitation
- Decreasing resilience of local communities

KEY QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ANALYSIS

When seeking to integrate climate action in water and sanitation interventions, it is relevant to consider the following questions:

- What are the impacts on water and/or sanitation that climate change has and is likely to have in the intervention area (e.g. too much water or too little water for production, for infrastructure, for sanitation and habitation)?
- What obstacles are there for sustainable and more efficient use of water and for better coverage of sanitation? - and will the planned activities contribute to more sustainable water use and/or better sanitation?
- What are the strategies used by local communities to manage water related risks and their impact? - and what are the livelihoods-water access-climate linkages for different groups within the communities?
- Are there underlying reasons for human vulnerability to water related climate change including poverty, gender and marginalisation? - Are there opportunities and locally available capacities?
- How is the institutional and policy environment related to climate change in the water and sanitation sector?

World Bank

Another entry point, where a good amount of relevant data on climate actions related to the water and sanitation sector can be found, is the **World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal**. This portal can be accessed through this link: [WB CC knowledge - country profiles](#) (go to country heading and select a country).

Local Development Plans

Important entry points are local development plans. The **local development plans** - typically the district or municipal development plans - can have several climate related actions described in the sections on water and sanitation.

Other Entry Points

There might be other plans, assessments and documents relevant to consult. They include possible **Disaster Risk Reduction Plans** for the specific area (commune, district, province). These can include relevant climate actions related to water and sanitation. Different forms of **spatial plans** such as land use plans for the district or province might exist and give some guidance on actions within water resource management. Lastly, different area specific assessments including **vulnerability assessments** or **participatory poverty assessments** might exist. They can have valuable information on water and sanitation access to be used for integrating climate actions. Check also with other CSOs in the area, what material they might have.

There is a good range of tools and guidelines addressing climate action integration within the water and sanitation sector. Some of the most relevant include: EU Water, CARE Water, WHO WASH.

CHECKLIST



Information sources in water and sanitation	To be found? Yes/No	Consulted? Yes/No	Relevance of information? High/Medium/Low
Sector policies, strategies, plans			
Water and sanitation sector adaptation plan			
Country documents submitted to UNFCCC – NDC, NAPA, NAP, National Communications			
World Bank CC Knowledge Portal			
Local development plans			
Disaster Risks Reduction plans			
Spatial plans			
Vulnerability assessments/Poverty Assessments			
Planning for undertaking Vulnerability Assessment			



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLIMATE INTEGRATION

Typically, water and sanitation interventions have a wide range of opportunities for integrating climate action. The opportunities cover primarily climate change adaptation but often also include some mitigation benefits. This is especially within water catchment, ecosystem management and water conservation measures in the farming landscape. **The focus for integrating climate action should be on building resilience of the poor in addressing water stress (adaptation).** Improving access to water and sanitation is an important aspect of building resilience. Promoting improved access and management of water is closely linked to agriculture and to health. Promoting improved sanitation is closely linked to health. Focus on participation and inclusion of the most vulnerable, including rights of women, must be part of the approach.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACHES

- Improve **water infrastructure** for small-scale water capture, storage and use and for further capacities in terms of water harvesting and storage. Taking into account future demand and availabilities of water in a changing climate scenario. **Diversify water sources.** Primarily related to capacity development and strategic services.
- Build capacities of local communities for **increased resilience and adaptive capacity** to water stress. Focus is within capacity development.
- Supporting the **reuse of wastewater** for agricultural purposes. Related to capacity development and strategic services.
- Promoting **water conservation measures** in the farming landscape for more climate resilient livelihoods and better food security. Address both adaptation and mitigation and is related to capacity development and supported by strategic services.
- Improving the **management of water resources and catchment areas** that are important in provision of water services to communities. Address both adaptation and mitigation. Promoting rights of local communities will be part of this, and it is relevant to include in advocacy, in capacity development as well as in strategic services.
- Support cost-effective **'natural infrastructure'** (e.g. wetlands restoration/management) that enhance the capacity of ecosystems to contribute to water treatment/purification. Address both adaptation and mitigation, and related to advocacy, in capacity development as well as in strategic services.
- Supporting more **efficient water use** in farming and production systems and develop **water management innovations** to address increasing frequency of droughts. Related to capacity development, strategic services and advocacy.
- Addressing **improved irrigation** with more efficient use of water, less water loss, and with better demand management and allocation of water for adapting to changing agricultural production. Related to capacity development and strategic services.
- Promoting **policies and plans** within water and sanitation in support of climate change adaptation. Directed at local government and water and sanitation sector. Related to advocacy.
- Addressing **water use planning and water governance** including equitable access and conflict resolution in support of improved resilience within the water sector. Primarily related to advocacy and to capacity development activities.
- Addressing **institutional capacity development** for water user organisations, sector departments and for extension agents to increase their capacity in supporting climate resilience issues in **water management** and in support of monitoring water availability. Related to capacity development and can include advocacy.
- Including water management issues for improved resilience in farmer **training processes** such as farmers field schools and extension support. To be addressed through capacity development activities.
- Promoting **better supply, access and climate proofing** of water and sanitation infrastructure. Include disaster risk reduction strategies to reduce the negative impacts of hazards on water and sanitation resources. Related to advocacy, capacity development and strategic services.
- Promote use of **greener energy** solutions in water and wastewater treatment operations. Related to advocacy and capacity development and possible strategic services.

When integrating climate action in a water and sanitation intervention, it is important to reflect the impact of the chosen approaches in the expected outcomes and results of the intervention. Have you for example selected climate proofing of water and sanitation infrastructure, you should include improved resilience of water and sanitation infrastructure in the outcomes and results.

It is important to monitor the intervention implementation in accordance with indicators that reflect the integrated climate actions. You need to reflect on whether the monitoring set-up includes indicators of improved access to water and sanitation and improved adaptive capacity or resilience of the target groups? Moreover, whether there are indicators related to the institutional, planning and policy environment for adaptation in the water and sanitation sector.

Examples of climate action indicators within the water and sanitation sector

- Adoption of efficient water use and management practices
- Development and implementation of watershed management plans.

	To be found? Yes/No	Consulted? Yes/No
Integration activities in water and sanitation		
Water infrastructure for small-scale water capture, storage, harvesting – diversify water sources		
Capacity building for increased local resilience and adaptive capacity		
Reuse of wastewater for agricultural purposes		
Water conservation measures in the farming landscape		
Management of water resources and catchment areas		
Natural infrastructure for treatment/purification		
Efficient water use in farming, production - water management innovations		
Improved irrigation – better water allocation		
Promoting policies and plans for resilient water and sanitation		
Water use planning and water governance		
Addressing institutional capacity development for water user organisations, sector departments and for extension agents		
Include water management issues in farmer training processes		
Better supply, access and climate proofing of water and sanitation		
Greener energy solutions in water and wastewater treatment		



ADAPTING WATER MANAGEMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A CISU member and their partner want to integrate climate action in a new intervention within water development and sanitation promotion in multiple districts in Malawi.

In information contained in the communication by Malawi to UNFCC, the World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal and the water and sanitation sector documents, it is stressed that **improved watershed management** and **small-scale water harvesting** infrastructure are relevant adaptation measures in the area. Watershed management also has important mitigation co-benefits.

Information on specific water infrastructure development and watershed development initiatives are found in the district development plans and the land use plans for the districts. This includes information on what type of water harvesting technologies are most appropriate in the targeted districts.

Hence, the partners will put further stress on promoting watershed management and small-scale water harvesting infrastructure in their activities.

The activities are to be addressed in relation to advocacy, capacity development as well as in strategic services.

The objectives and outputs of the proposed project are formulated so that they include improved capacity of the targeted communities to **address climate-induced water stress**. Indicators revolve around improved watershed management and increase in **target group's water access** from water harvesting infrastructure.

The practical example is constructed based on experiences from interventions of different CISU members organizations.