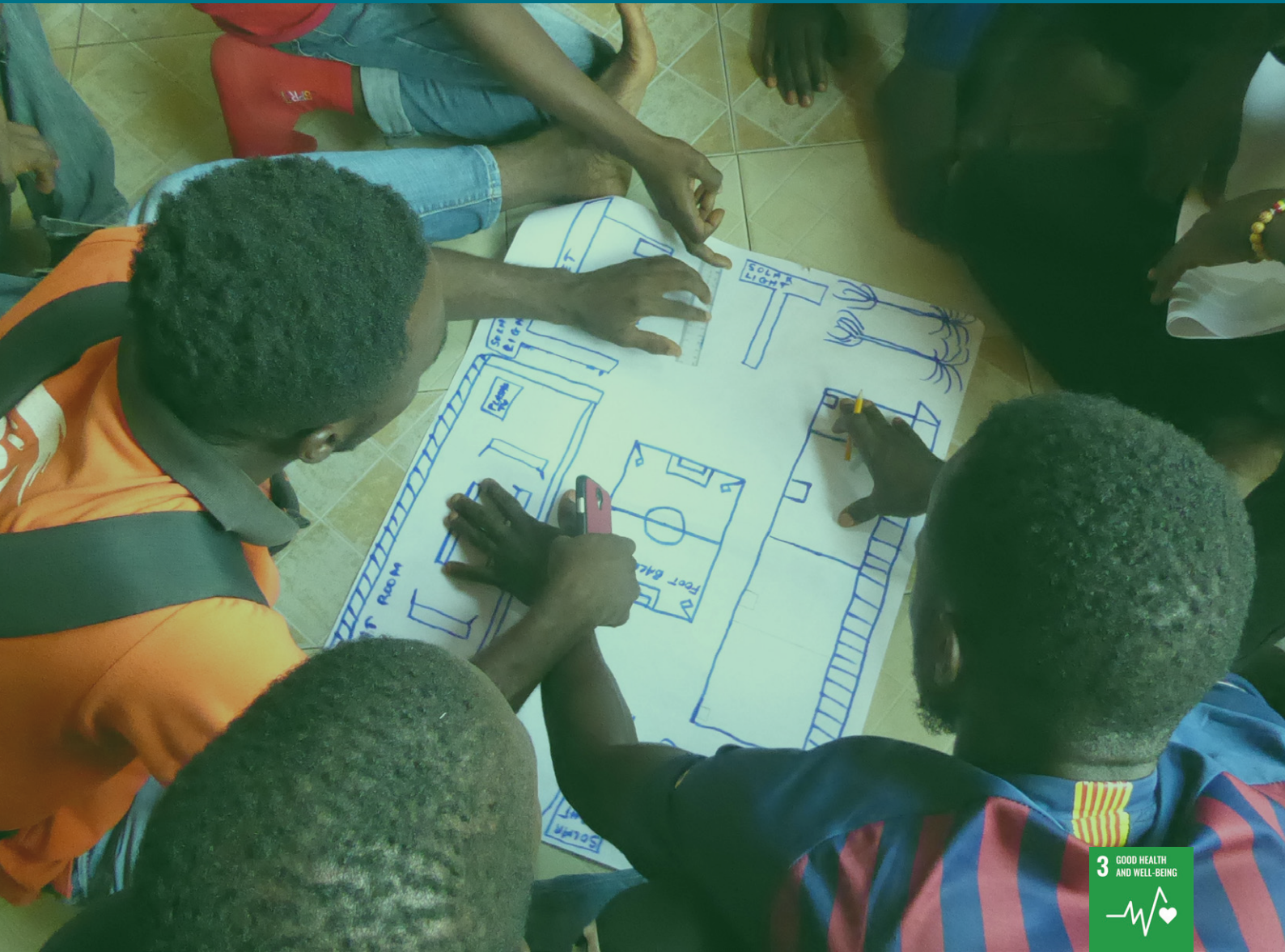


HEALTH



ARCHIVE PHOTO FROM DREAMTOWN 2019





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.

ARCHIVE PHOTO FROM IAS, KENYA 2019

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



ENTRY POINTS

There is substantial direct impact from climate change on the health sector. It is expected that climate change will adversely impact the lives and health of billions of people over the next decades. In most countries, health is one of the priority sectors in relation to climate action integration. Integrating climate actions in relation to health is all about adaptation to climate change.

While the direct health effects of extreme weather events receive great attention, climate change mainly harms human health by exacerbating existing disease burdens. It has negative impacts on daily life among those with the weakest health protection systems and with the least capacity to adapt.

The impact is dependent on several factors such as existing vulnerability and adaptive capacity to changing meteorological conditions, as well as capacities, available resources, and existing behaviours and attitudes.

Thus, the poor and disenfranchised groups will bear the most risk globally, the greatest burden fall on poor countries, particularly on poor children, who are most affected by such climate-related diseases as malaria, undernutrition, and diarrhoea.

Health systems must improve and become more resilient to climate change to continue to be a cornerstone in poverty reduction under changing climate risks. It is critical to focus on enhancing resilience of people and communities.

Sector Policies

In seeking answers to some of the key questions, a number of different entry points can be used. The entry points for seeking information on integrating climate action include the health sector policies, plans and programmes for the specific countries. Specific health sector adaptation plans can be found in some countries. Look for climate actions in these sector documents and consider if these climate actions could be relevant to integrate in your intervention.

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 will have information relevant to the sector.

World Bank

Relevant data on climate actions in health can be found in the World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal that can be accessed through this link: [WB CC knowledge – country profiles](#) (go to country heading and select a country). On this portal, you will find the climate and adaptation profile of each country with data specifically on health impacts and adaptation measures.

Local Development Plans

Important entry points for many interventions, which are addressing specific activities in defined geographic areas are the local development plans. The local development plans – typically the district or municipal development plans have plans related to public health and can have a number of climate related actions included.

Other Entry Points

There might be other plans, assessments and documents that are relevant to consult. They include possible Disaster Risk Reduction Plans for the specific area (commune, district, province). Typically, there will be something on health responses to disasters. In some cases, there exists different assessments covering the area including vulnerability assessments or participatory poverty assessments, which might have something on health. They might have valuable information in relation to climate actions. Check also with other CSOs in the area, what material they might have.

There are tools addressing climate action integration within health including guidance on health vulnerability assessments. The most relevant are from WHO. They can be accessed here: [WHO Health](#).

KEY QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ANALYSIS

When seeking to integrate climate action in health, it is relevant to consider the following questions::

- What are the climate change impacts in the target area on health (e.g. increased disease burden and reduced resilience of target communities)? – And what are the projected impacts?
- What are the current coping mechanisms in the health system and among the communities?
- What obstacles are there for improving health services to become more adapted?
- Will the planned activities contribute to improved resilience in the health system and among the communities?
- Are there underlying reasons for health vulnerability to climate change including poverty, gender and marginalisation? – Are there opportunities and locally available capacities?
- How does the health institutional and policy environment address impacts of climate change?

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

TYPICAL IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change affects the most basic health requirements: clean air, safe water, enough food and adequate shelter. It also poses new challenges to the control of infectious diseases, and gradually increases the pressure on the natural, economic and social systems that sustain health.

- Greater risk of injury, disease, and death due to more intense floods, droughts, heat waves and fires
- Increased risk of undernutrition resulting from diminished food production in poor regions
- Consequences for health of lost work capacity and reduced labour productivity in vulnerable populations
- Increased risks of food- and water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLIMATE INTEGRATION

Development interventions within health have several options for integrating climate action. **The health sector is among the priority sectors to be affected by climate change and among the key sectors where integration of climate action is needed.**

The opportunities for climate integration are all related to adaptation. Health plays a key role in building resilience of communities.

Focus on inclusion of the most vulnerable, including children and women, must be part of the approach. Building the resilience of health systems to climate change is part of a preventive approach to public health.

Existing shortfalls in providing basic health services determine that much of the global population is exposed to climate-sensitive health hazards. There is a need to strengthen key functions, and to ensure that the health sector is ready to react to the challenges posed by climate change. These challenges include acute natural disasters and disease epidemics as well as long term stresses.

Lastly, actions within health are often linked to actions within many of the other SDGs and sectors especially water and sanitation. Likewise, there is a strong link to the energy sector, as access to clean energy is a critical aspect of human health from reduction in exposure to smoke.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACHES

- **Building the capacity of health services/workers and basic health care institutions** to understand health/climate risks and to respond to illnesses and injuries caused by climate- or environment-related impacts. This includes responding to sudden and slow offset disasters and responding to diseases and undernutrition. This approach focuses on capacity development and strategic services.
- Support the **assessment and mapping health vulnerability** to climate risks among the target population (as integrated with more general mapping of health vulnerability). Linked to capacity development and strategic services.
- Promote **health/climate awareness and education** among target communities (as part of general health awareness campaigning). Related to advocacy, capacity development and strategic services.
- Support the general **strengthening of basic health services** and systems to become more resilient and improve its ability to respond to climate related stresses. Related primarily to advocacy and capacity development.
- Promote government, private sector and civil society organisation **collaboration on health crisis mitigation and management**. Related to advocacy and capacity development.
- Support health services to improve **its capacity to address water, food and vector borne diseases** linked to climate change (malaria, dengue, diarrhoea etc). Primarily related to capacity development.
- **Advocacy** for appropriate policies and implementation in support of health services that are able to respond better to challenges faced by climate change.
- Supporting the improvement of **health data gathering, disease surveillance, early warning and contingency planning** in order to respond earlier to climate induced crisis. Related to advocacy and capacity development.
- Support health services to **prepare better for disasters** and to be further involved in **disaster risk reduction**. Related to capacity development and strategic services.
- Investing in **social security systems** and in improving **access to health services** based on climate change vulnerability assessments will also contribute to improved health and resilience within the target communities. This is linked closely with work in other sectors and is relevant to address in advocacy, in capacity development and strategic services.
- Promoting **climate proofing** of health infrastructure. Related to advocacy and strategic services.

MONITORING: FORMULATION OF INDICATORS

CHECKLIST



When integrating climate action in a health intervention, it is important to reflect on the impact of the chosen approaches in the expected outcomes and results of the intervention. Have you for example selected a climate integration focus on improved response capacity for vector borne diseases, you should seek to include changes in occurrence of vector borne diseases into the outcomes and results.

For the actual implementation, it is important to monitor on indicators related to climate actions within health. You need to reflect on whether the monitoring set-up includes indicators related to health resilience of the target group monitoring of the institutional, planning and policy environment for adaptation within the health sector.

	To be found? Yes/No	Consulted? Yes/No
Integration activities in health		
Resilience capacity development of health services/workers		
Assessment and mapping health vulnerability		
Health/climate awareness and education		
Strengthening resilience of basic health services		
Stakeholder collaboration on health crisis mitigation and management		
Strengthen health capacity in water, food and vector-borne diseases		
Advocacy for better health response capacity		
Health data gathering, disease surveillance, early warning and contingency planning		
Strengthen health in disaster risk reduction		
Improve social security systems and access to health services based on climate change vulnerability assessments		
Climate proofing of health infrastructure		



PROTECTING HEALTH SERVICES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

A CISU member and their local partner have decided to integrate climate action in the work with promotion of inclusive primary health care in vulnerable urban slums in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In the adaptation information by Sierra Leone to UNFCCC and the health sector adaptation plan they found that improvement of **health services capacity to address water, food and vector borne diseases** linked to climate change are important adaptation measures.

They also looked for information on how to **develop and build capacity of the local health services**. This was found in the more localised entry points, including the municipal development plans, and in the available climate vulnerability assessments and disaster risk reduction plans for the city. Capacity to address the water, food and vector borne diseases are stressed here as well.

Based on this information, the partners agreed to include activities aimed at increasing health services' capacity to address water, food and vector borne diseases when supporting inclusive primary health care.

The planned activities are to be related to capacity development and advocacy.

Increased resilience of the targeted vulnerable groups to the water, food and vector borne diseases is then being reflected in the objectives, outputs and indicators. Examples are **reduced illness** among the target group from the occurrence of water, food and vector borne diseases.

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