

# SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

## Tools on social impact assessment of climate change



Article 1.1 of the UNFCCC states that climate change not only affects adversely the natural and managed ecosystems, but also has "significant deleterious effects" on the "operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare." Therefore, parties shall not only consider climate change in economic and environmental terms, but also take climate change into account "in their relevant social [...] policies and actions" to minimize adverse effects of mitigation and adaptation projects on human societies and health (Article 4.1 (f)).

The UN System supports countries to develop a comprehensive conceptual framework on the social dimensions of climate change, advocate a multidimensional approach to climate change policies and develop climate-related measures to ensure better living conditions.

For that purpose, methods and tools have been developed to assess climate change risks on human societies and identify social vulnerabilities and adaptation capacities. The following table shows a list of tools and best practices elaborated by the UN System addressing gender, health, food security, migration, population dynamics, housing and employment in a changing climate.

Although these tools and best practices are comprehensive as a whole and provide assessment guidelines crossing sectors and levels, they do not provide a full picture of the social impacts of climate change as each of these tools focus merely on one social aspect. An integrated tool considering all relevant social aspects and cross-sectoral synergies will facilitate the assessment process, provide a better understanding of social risks and vulnerabilities and support the development of more adequate preparedness and response mechanisms to improve livelihoods, health and human wellbeing.



**United Nations System  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

## Mapping of the UN system tools for social impact assessment of climate change

Ag	Field of work	Social Impact Assessed	Tools	Description	Application
FAO	Food, agriculture, natural resources	Gender and food security	Gender-sensitive Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Rural Development	Case study India: Methodological tools to assess food security and gender Training manual for collecting information on gender and climate change to formulate gender-sensitive policies for rural development	Adaptation (agriculture) and mitigation
ILO	Social justice, labor standards and rights	Employment potential Employment and social protection	Handbook of Methodologies for Assessing Green Jobs Climate Change: ILO Tools for assessing Employment Impacts and Opportunities	Compilation of methodologies to assess green job potentials in an economic sector or country Methodologies to assess green job potentials and social protection	Mitigation
IOM	Migration management	Migration	Assessment Report: Environmental Changes and Migration in the Republic of Mauritius Assessing the evidence: Environment, Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh	Focus on vulnerability as an "upstream entry point" for launching an adaptation to climate change process in Mauritius A series of policy tools as IOM's Initiative in Bangladesh to minimize displacement and provide protection	Adaptation to natural disasters, migration as adaptive strategy
UNFPA	Reproductive health, gender equality, population and development strategies	Population dynamics, poverty, inequality Framework for incorporating population dynamics into vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning	Population Situation Analysis  Populating Adaptation: Incorporating Demographic Dynamics in Climate Change	Guidance to conduct an integrated appraisal of population and reproductive health dynamics and their impacts on poverty, inequality and climate change  A framework for incorporating population dynamics into existing understandings and assessments of climate change vulnerability and adaptation planning.	Capacity building for national adaptation and mitigation strategies incorporating population dynamics
UN HABIT AT	Human settlements, urban development	Settlements, urban services	Participatory Climate Change Assessments: A toolkit based on the Experience of Sorsogon City, Philippines	Guidance on climate change assessment and cities	Adaptation: settlement
UN ISDR/ UNDP/ IUCN	UNISDR: disaster risk reduction UNDP: UN's development network IUCN: nature conservation	Gender and disaster risk reduction	Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender sensitive	Practical guidelines on gender-sensitive risk assessments and early warning systems	Adaptation: disaster risk reduction
UN ISDR/ UN Women	UNISDR: disaster risk reduction UNIFEM: gender equality	Gender and disaster risk reduction	Guidance Tool for Monitoring Cross-Cutting Issues in the Hyogo Framework for Action: Indicators and Strategies for Change	Guidance to address gender, community participation, capacity building and multi-hazard approaches in disaster risk reduction	Adaptation: disaster risk reduction
UN Women	Gender equality, women empowerment	Gender needs and humanitarian crisis	Pakistan Floods 2010: Rapid Gender Needs Assessment of Flood affected Communities	Gender assessment of humanitarian crisis and the initial response to it in the case of the Pakistan Floods 2010	Adaptation: emergency response
WB	Financing and knowledge in fighting poverty	Socio-economic development and poverty reduction	Operational Toolkit on Social Resilience and Climate Change Guidance Note on Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) for Climate Change and Green Growth Development Policy Lending Operations (DPOs) Making Women's Voices Count: Integrating Gender Issues in Disaster Risk Management - Operational Guidance Notes Incorporating Social Impact Analysis into Post-Disaster Response and Follow-up Monitoring	Guidance aimed at World Bank task teams and their country-level counterparts and partners including UN agencies, bilateral donors and other MDBs	Mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, social and gender assessment, capacity building
WFP	Food and nutrition security, food assistance	Food security and livelihood vulnerability	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)  Livelihoods, Early Assessment and Protection in Ethiopia  Hunger and Climate Vulnerability Index (with UK Met Office Hadley Centre)	Analysis of the root causes of food insecurity, coping capacities and livelihood risks and their potential impact on the most vulnerable This tool calculates a drought and flood based livelihood protection index for a timely scale up of Ethiopia's PSNP Measures the degree of climate stress on populations, responsiveness to stress, and ability of populations to adjust to climatic changes based on 17 indicators relevant to food security	Capacity building on food security
WHO	Health	Health and other determinants of health	Health Adaptation and Vulnerability Assessment Tool  Health Impact Assessment Tool	A compilation of methods to assess human health vulnerability and public health adaptation to climate change  A compilation of methods to evaluate the potential health effects of a policy, programme or project	Adaptation: health  Assessment of mitigation and adaptation projects