**UN Side-Event on SDG1: Community-level adaptation practices to reduce disaster risk, build resilience and end poverty**

**Concept note**

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| **Event** | **SDG 1: Community-level adaptation practices to reduce disaster risk, build resilience and end poverty** |
| **Organizers** | **Co-leads:** UNISDR, OHCHR, WBG, UNDP, UN-Women, FAO, WFP**Contributing:** WMO, UNCTAD, UNU, UN-Habitat, UN-OHRLLS, UNICEF, UNESCO**Contact:** Kathryn Milliken: Kathryn.milliken@wfp.org  |
| **Date & Time** |  Monday, 14 November 2016, 13:15 - 14:45, Arabian room  |
| Participatory community-led climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and low-carbon development can reduce poverty. This session addresses how early warning/disaster preparedness, climate services, inclusive land planning, rights-based approaches, and social protection can contribute to this aim.**Speakers:** Speakers will be drawn from government officials, community leaders and other stakeholders. The session will be designed to profile women’s leadership. |

**Background:**

The first of the sustainable development goals seeks to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Climate change is already known to have a disproportionately negative impact on vulnerable, food-insecure people, 80 percent of whom live in countries that are prone to natural hazards and face high levels of environmental degradation. Impacts on agricultural livelihoods will represent the main increase in poverty due to climate change[[1]](#footnote-2) which could reduce potential agricultural output by up to 30 percent in Africa and up to 21 percent in Asia[[2]](#footnote-3).and LandLocked Developing Countries can be particularly affected by climate disasters, where even can impact supplies, commerce and the wider economy Women and girls who are subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and who are also among the poorest segments of the society are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.

Without rapid, inclusive and climate-smart development, as well as emissions-reductions efforts that protect and empower the poor, there could be more than 100 million additional people in poverty by 2030[[3]](#footnote-4). Climate action should be based on participatory approaches that benefits the most vulnerable, including proper accountability mechanisms. Failing to take urgent action to prevent these foreseeable impacts breaches State human rights obligations as well as their recent high-level political commitments. The Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda, for example, are underpinned by human rights and explicitly emphasize the importance of eradicating poverty and protecting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations including from the adverse impacts of climate change. Enhancing adaptive capacity for disaster risk reduction, resilience building and climate adaptation should be a priority for vulnerable countries, with the support of the international community.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[[4]](#footnote-5) provides globally agreed targets, indicators and practical measures for reducing existing risk and prevents the creation of new risk. Participatory and inclusive community-level climate adaptation and disaster risk management efforts can play an especially important role in protecting human rights, empowering women and girls, reducing losses and building resilience to sudden and slow-onset events.

This session focuses on disaster risk reduction, disaster risk management, adaptation and mitigation measures and how these actions can productively bring people out of poverty. During the discussion, panelists will bring examples of good practices that are contributing to achieving the SDG1 goal, including investments in early action and poverty reduction, and how to scale up community level action (such as safety nets and social protection). Participatory action, consultative processes and scaling up at national level will part of the discussion. The risks of how climate change affects the flow (in and out) of poverty would also be a focus of interest.

**Event format:**

The side event will adopt a moderated discussion, with a gender-balanced panel of 3-4 speakers maximum. No powerpoint presentation will be used. Panelists will have 5-7 minutes for statements based on pre-agreed guiding questions; followed by an interactive session with the audience, to which the moderator will ask both groups (panelists and audience) natural follow-up and probing questions.

**Moderator and panelists:**

The moderator for this event will be **Mary Robinson**, [Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate](http://www.mrfcj.org/resources/mary-robinson-appointed-special-envoy-on-el-nino-and-climate-by-un-secretary-general/)

**Panelists include**:

* **Nina Gualinga**, Ecuador, Indigenous woman of Kichwa Community of Sarayaku
* **Prema Gopalan,** Founder and Executive Director of Swayam Shikshan Pra yog (SSP - Self Education for Empowerment), India
* **Samuel Pohiva**, Secretary, Local Government and Community Development, Head of Tonga National Safety and Protection Cluster, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Tonga.
* **Sunya Orre**, Director of Technical Services at the National Drought Management Authority, the agency in charge of the HSNP, will be at COP22 and is able to talk about the Kenya experience.

**Guiding questions for panelists (and audience)**:

* How important are community-based actions to addressing the impacts of climate change, especially in relation to eradicating poverty under SDG1?
* What are the issues of climate justice you’ve observed with your work? What toll have climate disasters played on those most vulnerable? How have you been able to meet their needs, including of women and children? What have you seen works best to empower women as full and equal partners and leaders?
* What are the biggest lessons learnt you’ve had with your work? What challenges and solutions have you experienced that could be useful to others in this forum?
* How can we bring community-level climate action to scale? What role can the government, the private sector and the UN System each play in addressing the urgency of climate change?

**Communications component:**

The event will be promoted through each participating organisation’s social media channels and their COP22 stand. It is possible a small flyer will be produced by one of the participant agencies for this purpose. Other options are to have someone live tweet at the event, and for a blog to be produced following the event with photos.

1. WB, 2015. *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. FAO, 2009, *Agriculture to 2015 – the challenges ahead.* URL: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/36193/icode/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Note: In the 52 countries where data was available, 85 percent of the population live in countries where poor people are more exposed to drought than the average. Poor people are also more exposed to higher temperatures and live in countries where food production is expected to decrease because of climate change. Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty, November 2015, World Bank. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/43291 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)