

WORKSTREAM 6: SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Lead Organizations:



With increasing intensity and frequency of droughts in many parts of the world, the ability for communities and economies to manage the impacts and recover is being severely tested. The most vulnerable communities, women, socially excluded, marginalized groups, and those with limited resources to offset the impacts are particularly at risk, yet their access to climate information, resilience building resources and ability to influence drought management planning is often limited. People on the move, including migrants and displaced persons tend to be exposed to frequent disruptions to critical services such as healthcare and agriculture.

Effective integrated drought management approaches are needed to prevent amplifying inequality, address vulnerability to hazards, and reach everyone. Therefore, we should enable social inclusions and climate justice to be brought into the framework. Vulnerable populations cannot tackle the impacts of drought alone. Support needs to be co-designed to ensure effective responses and resilience-building enabling conditions, and those are inevitable for climate change adaptation.

A LOOK BACK ON THE PAST 10 YEARS

The complexity and issues which gender and social exclusion pose on drought risk mitigation and preparedness have become evident as the progress on IDMP has been achieved in the last ten years. Humanitarian and development organizations alongside many other stakeholder groups including and researchers^{1,2} highlighted there is a real urge to assess how droughts impact and heighten risks on vulnerable people, how droughts perpetuate society-wide systemic risks posed when vulnerability is not tackled, and to capture issues of climate justice and more complex societal impacts of drought.

Studies of local contexts, even within a country, brought an increasingly nuanced understanding of the heterogeneity of vulnerability drivers and risk. The vulnerability propagates when consecutive droughts are taking place, or when drought compound with other hazards (fires, heat waves) or socio-ecological challenges (displacement)³. Droughts reshape patterns of water security, and aggravate already difficult social and economic situations, and affect human mobility dynamics, especially when communities relying primarily on natural resources are no longer able to adapt. Most climate change driven population movements occur within countries and international migration from drought-affected regions tends to decrease in certain contexts².

MAIN CHALLENGES

1. Vulnerable populations (women, children, elderly, Indigenous People, socially excluded groups) are the most impacted by drought and remain living in repeatedly impacted regions despite risks. Displacement changes communities and increases regional disparities. It leads to the rise of urban poor, contributes to violent conflict, and deepens gender-based violence.
2. Droughts limit the capacity of communities and individuals in situations of vulnerability to migrate³. Droughts aggravate pre-existing vulnerabilities and situations of inequality, and consecutive events propagate vulnerability.
3. Resource allocations are shaped by perceptions of the risks and the urgency. Risk perception, risk assessment, problem solving and sharing and their lack or presence are often the factors influencing the ability of community response. Lacking knowledge on enabling conditions and response options jeopardizes the agility and adaptability of the poorest.
4. Access to drought risk financial mitigation measures is often limited for women and other vulnerable groups because of several conditions required by institutions offering these services, that they cannot meet.
5. The narratives influencing vulnerability are deeply rooted in societies and prevail longer than actual drought situations. Resource allocations are shaped by descriptive norms, perceived self-efficacy, and the underlying approaches taken to valuing human well-being. Similarly future development scenarios are based on values of those having the voice, rather those unheard.
6. Inclusion of women and other representatives of marginalized groups in national governance is slow, and responsive budgeting is underestimated. Inclusive governance acknowledging diversity of values and knowledges is lacking in most of the countries, despite its inevitability for achieving a positive climate adaptation future.

²Henry, S., B. Schoumaker and C. Beauchemin, "The Impact of Rainfall on the First Out-Migration: A Multi-Level Event-History Analysis in Burkina Faso". 2004 *Population and Environment*, 25(5):423–60.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

1. Developing methods and approaches to assess human-drought vulnerability and water/food/livelihood security and preparedness are needed. Evidence of the spatial variability of drought impacts, understanding the vulnerabilities 'drivers is critical for effective and inclusive planning.
2. Developing blueprint examples of how drought management planning can be built on gender and social inclusion, climate justice and serve the climate adaptation.
3. Transferring to inclusion-based leadership and ecosystem stewardship. Enabling and sustain conditions for participation of vulnerable groups in governance, and their continuous leadership empowerment.
4. Increase gender and social inclusion responsive budgeting in all drought-related policies and sectors responses, including technical chapter of the drought management plans
5. Sensitively consider the drought risk and vulnerability narratives and the risk-perceptions caused by existing and emerging identities (incl. information and digital poverty) in policies, systematically empowering the vulnerable populations for climate related action
6. Focus on creating a vision for drought and climate change positive futures. Ensure equity in envisioning. Plan participation for self-mobilization and innovation.
7. Recognize human mobility as a vital adaptation strategy to cope with drought and plan for its consequences across scales. Recognize that forced forms of human i-/mobility aggravate vulnerability. Work minimizing forced migration, including displacement, through interventions that address its drivers. It is also essential to provide solutions to affected communities allowing them to take advantage of human mobility's adaptation potential in a safe manner.
8. More efforts should be directed towards enhancing the community of people on the move, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), to limit the impact of environmental shocks, including the prevention of secondary displacement risks.
9. There is an opportunity to tap into the significant potential of community resilience and human mobility – when well-managed and people-centered – to support innovative and sustainable water resources and drought management.
10. Recognizing gender equality and social inclusion is crucial for drought risk and preparedness and make them legally binding, implementable and reinforceable part of the drought plans.

