



**HEDA**  
RESOURCE CENTRE

# **BUILDING COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **A Sensitization & Training Manual for Communities in Africa**



**OXFAM**



## POWER OF VOICES PARTNERSHIP - AFRICA ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE (PVP-AACJ)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

# AMPLIFYING VOICES OF CLIMATE FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

...making climate justice inclusive



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**2023**



# How Are We Contributing To Climate Change



**TRANSPORTATION**  
accounts for roughly 16% of global  
greenhouse gas emissions



**INDISCRIMINATE LAND CLEARING/BUSH BURNING**  
between 2015 and 2020, an average of  
10 million hectares of forest were  
lost annually due to land-use change,  
including clearing for agriculture,  
infrastructure, and urbanization.



**TREE FELLING/FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL**  
over 2.4 billion people worldwide relied  
on traditional biomass (like firewood  
and charcoal) for cooking



**GAS FLARING/OIL SPILLS**  
3,000 plus oil spills globally in 2020,  
and 150 billion cubic meters of  
gas flared globally.



**INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE**  
Contribute about 14% to GHGs Emission  
globally from enteric fermentation in  
livestock, nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) from fertilizer  
use, and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from land-use  
changes and energy consumption.



**USE OF GENERATOR**  
global diesel consumption  
especially from Generators  
exceeded 2.2 billion metric tons





**POLLUTION (AIR, H<sub>2</sub>O, LAND)**  
 About 92% of world population lived with air pollution, Over 80% of untreated waste water dumped in Rivers and Lakes.  
 80% of waste water from human activities is released into water bodies without adequate treatment



**POOR WASTE DISPOSAL**  
 In 2018, the world generated an estimated 2.01 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste, only about 13.5% of global waste was recycled, with the majority going to landfills and incineration facilities



**TOO MUCH PLASTICS**  
 In 2019, global plastic production reached 368 million metric tons, with demand expected to double over the next two decades. by 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans if current trends continue



**BUILDING ON WATER PATHWAYS**  
 more than half of the world's population now lives within 60 kilometers (37 miles) of the coast, putting a significant portion of the global population at risk of climate-related impacts associated with coastal development. global urban land area could increase by up to 1.2 million square kilometers by 2030, much of which is likely to encroach on water pathways



**OVER FISHING**  
 approximately 33% of global fish stocks were classified as over fished in 2017 with 90% of the world's fisheries are either fully exploited or over exploited



**MINING**  
 sector is responsible for 11% of anthropogenic emissions of sulfur dioxide, a precursor to acid rain, as well as 7% of global emissions of arsenic and lead



# How Are We Experiencing Climate Change



## FLOODING

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), from 1970 to 2019, the number of reported floods more than doubled globally



## RISING TEMPERATURE

In 2020, the global average temperature was approximately 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, nearing the critical threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius set by the Paris Agreement



## WATER SCARCITY

Agriculture accounts for about 70% of global water withdrawals, and can limit agricultural productivity, leading to reduced crop yields.



## DROUGHTS

about 83% of all damage and losses caused by natural disasters in agriculture is as a result of drought.



## DESERT ENCROACHMENT

about one-third of the Earth's land surface is at risk of desertification. land degradation threatens the livelihoods of over 3.2 billion



## EROSION (COASTAL, LAND)

Major part of South East suffer for land erosion. Many costal community in lagos and Niger Delta are been lost to ocean surge



## BIODIVERSITY LOSS (LESS FISH IN THE OCEAN, ANIMAL AND PLANT EXTINCTION)

global fish biomass has declined by 4.1% since 1930.





**FAILING CROPS AND LIVESTOCK  
(HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION)**  
number of people facing acute food insecurity  
due to climate shocks and conflicts rose from  
80 million in 2015 to 155 million in 2020



**CHANGE IN WEATHER PATTERN  
E.G. RAINFALL**  
climate-related disasters affected 3.4 billion  
people worldwide in 2020



**INCREASE IN DISEASE BURDEN**  
the number of vulnerable people exposed to  
heatwave events has increased by over 200  
million in the last two decades



**CONFLICT AND INSECURITY**  
an estimated 30.7 million new internal displacements  
were associated with disasters and many of the  
countries facing the highest levels of climate  
vulnerability are also dealing with significant political  
instability.



**MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT**  
water-related hazards caused over 98%  
of all disaster displacement in 2020



**INCREASED WORKLOAD**  
Climate change affect woman Women often  
bear the brunt of climate impacts, as they are  
responsible for water and fuel collection and  
managing household needs.



**WIDENED-GENDER DISPARITIES**  
In 2021, UNESCO reported that girls are  
1.5 times more likely to be out of school  
in countries prone to climate-related hazards.



**LIMITED PARTICIPATION  
In Decision-Making**  
only 17 women among 469 federal legislators  
in Nigeria (3.62%). No single female governor  
among 36 state and FCT.



# Coping with Climate Change - Tips For Building Resilience In Your Community

Your community can take the following Actions to build resilience to climate change and enhance flexibility to the changing climate.



These actions collectively contribute to building resilience in response to climate change, ensuring the well-being and sustainability of communities and ecosystems.

- Develop a climate risk assessment for your community - what climate incident(s) is your community prone to?
- Practice community-led clearing of water drainage, canals and river banks
- Build local initiatives that address specific climate impacts, considering the unique challenges faced by your community
- Collaborate with other communities to share knowledge, resources, and experiences in building climate resilience
- Include gender-specific support around mobility and evacuation especially for women, young persons and persons with disabilities
- Identify, train and involve all community stakeholders in climate resilience planning, incorporating indigenous knowledge.
- Demand actions from duty bearers on practices that strengthens disaster preparedness and response at community, and regional levels.
- Promote community-led *ecosystem management* of wetlands, mangroves, and forests that provide natural buffers against climate-related hazards.
- Practice water conservation including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and grey-water reuse.
- Build embankment for shoreline protection against sea-surges
- Plant trees to reduce urban heat Island and erosion
- Practice responsible waste management – reduce | reuse | recycle
- Maintain a direct line of contact with all authorities responsible for emergencies responses like NEMA



# Lifestyle Changes

Sustainable lifestyle changes are habits, behaviors, and choices that have a positive impact on the environment, society, and personal well-being over the long term. These changes are aimed at **reducing** resource consumption, **minimizing** waste, and **promoting** a healthier and more balanced way of living. The concept of sustainability involves finding a balance between meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It's important to recognize that even small actions can add up to make a significant difference over time. By making conscious choices that prioritize environmental and societal well-being, you can contribute to a more sustainable future.



# How to **Advocate** for Policy Change

**01**

Identify a climate challenge in your community

**06**

Identify those who will solve the problem and who will influence them

**02**

Identify those affected by this challenge and how

**07**

What, when and how do you communicate with everyone concerned?

**03**

Consult with other community members and build a team

**08**

Who and how do you partner with to achieve result?

**04**

What do you hope to achieve with this advocacy?

**09**

For this advocacy, what do you need, what do you have, what do you lack and who can help?

**05**

What do you need to do to achieve result?

**10**

How do we know we are making progress? How do we know what to do more and what to change?

Your **circles of mobilization** will include household, resident associations, Community Development Associations (**CDAs**), Community Development Council (**CDC**), Farmers' Association, Political parties, Youth associations, Students associations, women associations, religious associations, traders' association, Local, State and Federal Government Agencies

By organizing stakeholders for climate action, you create a structure that empowers community members to take ownership of specific initiatives and contribute to a collective movement toward a more sustainable future.

# A **step-by-step** guide on Reporting climate-related incidences



A climate-related incident is an event or situation that is either directly caused by climate change or made worse due to climate change.

These events include **Natural Disasters** (Heavy rain storms, Flooding - coastal Erosion, Land Erosion, Pollution, Fire, Droughts and Drying Rivers/lakes). **Extreme Temperatures** (Heat waves and prolonged periods of high temperature, Cold waves), **Diseases outbreak** (Vector-Borne Diseases - malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, and Lyme disease, which are spread by vectors e.g. mosquitoes, ticks, whose behavior and range can be influenced by climatic conditions, Waterborne Diseases - like cholera, cryptosporidiosis, and giardiasis, which can be more prevalent in areas with changes in water availability, quality, and sanitation due to climate-related factors. **Air Quality Issues** (Poor air quality and increased respiratory problems due to factors like wildfires and changing patterns of air pollution), **Environmental Degradation** (Loss of biodiversity, habitat destruction, and damage to ecosystems due to extreme weather events and changing climate patterns).

Communities can report climate-related incidences through a structured process that involves collaboration with local authorities and relevant organizations. Here's a step-by-step guide:

1. Set up accessible and user-friendly reporting channels within your community. These may include telephone, WhatsApp group, community meetings, or designated reporting centers
2. Educate community members about the types of climate-related incidences they should be vigilant about.
3. Clearly communicate the process for reporting climate-related incidences. Make sure everyone understands what information is needed and how it should be conveyed.
4. Involve community leaders, health workers, and volunteers in the reporting process. They can act as intermediaries between community members and local authorities.
5. when a climate-related incidence is reported, gather detailed information including location, time, nature of the incidence, and any affected individuals or properties
6. Assess the validity of the reported incidences. Confirm the accuracy of the information provided before proceeding with any response or intervention
7. Report verified incidences to the relevant local authorities responsible for disaster management, public health, and environmental protection
8. Share all available information, and participate in any official assessments or investigations
9. Keep the community informed about the status of reported incidences, response efforts, and any recommended safety measures. Use various communication channels including community meetings, social media, and local news outlets.
10. If necessary, advocate for additional resources, funding, or support from local, regional, or national governments to address climate-related incidences.



## Reporting climate-related diseases



Climate-based early warning systems leverage climate and environmental data to predict, monitor, and mitigate the spread of climate-related illnesses. These systems are crucial for improving public health preparedness and response, especially in regions where climate factors significantly influence disease transmission. Here are some climate-related illnesses



If you suspect or have identified cases of climate-related diseases in your community, you should follow these general steps:

**Report to appropriate / nearest government authorities and seek medical attention** from a healthcare provider. They can diagnose the illness and provide appropriate treatment.

**Provide Information:** When reporting to health authorities, provide accurate and detailed information about the disease, symptoms, affected individuals, and possible sources of exposure. This will help health officials assess the situation and take appropriate actions.

**Follow Guidelines:** Follow any guidelines or recommendations provided by health authorities. This may include isolation or quarantine measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

**Community Education:** If you are aware of an outbreak or cases in your community, help raise awareness about preventive measures and hygiene practices to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

**Support Surveillance Efforts:** Participate in disease surveillance efforts by sharing information and cooperating with health authorities. Timely reporting helps identify and respond to outbreaks effectively.

**Stay Informed:** Stay informed about disease alerts and updates from local health authorities or relevant international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

**International Reporting:** If the disease has potential cross-border implications, health authorities may need to report cases to international health organizations in accordance with international health regulations.



## Leave no one behind

Climate change affects different groups in the community, in different ways especially younger people, women and people with disabilities



## With Climate Change



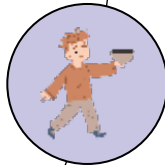
Woman and girls spend more time cooking and fetching fire wood



pregnant & nursing women and children face higher health risks during extreme climate events.



People with disabilities and impaired mobility require more attention and support to get through daily livelihood tasks



Children face malnutrition as a result of less food available and limited access to food



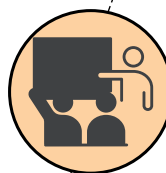
Women and girls may face increased risks of exploitation, violence, and inadequate living conditions in temporary shelters

Listen well and pay attention to everyone's concerns, especially women, children and the physically challenged who will need extra support to get by



What can your community do so that no one is left behind?

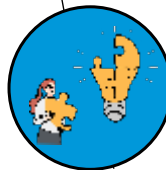
Learn together and teach everyone about climate change in ways that are easy to understand.



To be fair in choices, make sure everyone can access clean energy, education, and healthcare to stay safe during climate related events.



Work together and team up with different people to find solutions that work for everyone.



Include everyone, no matter where they come from or who they are.



# Working Together for a Greener Future



## AMPLIFY VOICES

Look up and follow climate scientists and local activists and advocates, particularly in communities that are most at risk, and help amplify their voices. Share their content with your networks, show your solidarity and join their causes.



## BECOME AN ADVOCATE

Stay informed about the latest developments and, if you feel up for it, become an advocate that helps get people informed and involved. You can start small, by talking to your family, friends, neighbours or colleagues about the issues. Help them understand that the climate crisis is happening now and it affects us all.



## JOIN/ FORM A MOVEMENT

Climate movements led by local activists and young people have led the way in demanding action for climate justice. Joining a movement or a community of other advocates can help build momentum and demands.



## PETITION YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Elected representative at the Local, State and Federal Government level are responsible to take action on most aspect of climate change. Know your representatives and contact them often through organized meetings



## SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

Consider supporting local civil society and grassroots organizations through donations or volunteering. Every little bit helps. This crisis demands a response from all of us. What we do now will decide our future. Tag us #NjaClimateAction

# Why should communities be involved in climate change

You feel the pain more, so your participation will help tailor the Solution to your specific needs, culture, and socioeconomic conditions making them more relevant and effective.

As a community, your local knowledge, traditional practices, and vulnerabilities provides valuable insights about the environment, which should inform effective climate actions & strategies.

When communities are actively involved in the addressing climate challenges, you feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for climate-related projects, leading to greater commitment and long-term success.

Your community will acquire critical skills and capacities to enable them independently manage and sustain climate-related actions when they are involved.

When communities are involved, their presence will ensure fair distribution of benefits, avoiding potential inequalities or adverse impacts.

Your community participation will encourage behavioral changes and promote the adoption of sustainable practices among community members.



Engaging community members in climate change actions will strengthen their ability to advocate for policies that address unique climate challenges and influence decision-making at local, State, and Federal levels.

Your communities would have established partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, creating a broader network of support for climate action.

Successful community-led climate initiatives, will serve as inspiring examples for neighboring communities and contribute to wider awareness and action, fostering a sense of responsibility

and encouraging sustainable behaviors.

overall, community involvement is fundamental for creating comprehensive, locally relevant, and sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by climate change

# Survey Questionnaire on Community Response to Climate Change

By filling this survey we believe that your voice and insights can shape the response to the challenges faced by your Local Community. Kindly fill the form and send the cut out to [info@hedang.org](mailto:info@hedang.org)

Respondent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Gender:      Male                  Female

Age: below 18 years [ ]    18-35 years [ ]      35 - 45 years [ ]      above 45 years [ ]

Location/ Community \_\_\_\_\_

Does your Community have a disaster management plans ? [ ] Yes      [ ] No

In what other way is climate change affecting your community ?

Are there people with disabilities in your community? [ ] Yes    [ ] No

Climate/ Environmental Challenge*	Period of occurrence (when, how often)	Any action ? By who ?	What do you think are the Causes ?	What do you think is the solution ?	Mention on- going Community-led action	'Who' should do 'What' ?
1.						
2.						
3.						

*List the challenge and score between (1) – (5) with 1 as least important and 5 as most important in your community*







# Climate Incidence Report

To be completed within 12 hours of incident

Incident Date \_\_\_\_\_ Incident Time \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Incidents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Injury \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Persons Injured \_\_\_\_\_

Does Injury require Hospital [Yes] [No]

Important Notes and Instructions

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Climate Incidence Tracker for Communities

Location/ Community\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

Month	Incidences	Action taken (who & how)	Impact
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

Incidences – This can be described as early rain, heavy rain, sudden unexpected rain, late rain, heavy flooding, dry spell, drought, pest outbreak, intense heat, crop failure,



# NOTE

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# NOTE

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# HEDA


## RESOURCE CENTRE



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