



Input into the 1st meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (Sept 2015)¹

This document provides an input prepared for the 1st meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage. CARE has been actively engaged in the loss and damage debate and the evolution of the mechanism for many years. This input provides reflections on the work plan and a few suggestions on potential priority activities within the established Action Areas (AA) of the work plan, some of which might also allow to make good for time lost due to the delayed start of the WIM work. This also builds on the experience and discussions during the development phase of the work plan in the 2014 meetings of the initial ExCom. Overall, the ExCom may also consider adjusting the work plan by proposing to the COP the extension of its duration until COP23, which could imply shifting the WIM review.

1. Illustration of the 2 year work plan of the WIM

The 2year work plan of the WIM contains of 9 action areas. Figure 1 presents an understanding of the composition and relation of these action areas. We regard Action Area 1 as cross-cutting and a central starting point, as the issue is intended to “become integrated across the workplan”. Action Areas 2 to 6 represent specific thematic foci. Action Area 7 on financial instruments cuts across the various thematic areas, as is also the case for Action Area 8 related to coordination and work complementary to that of other institutions.

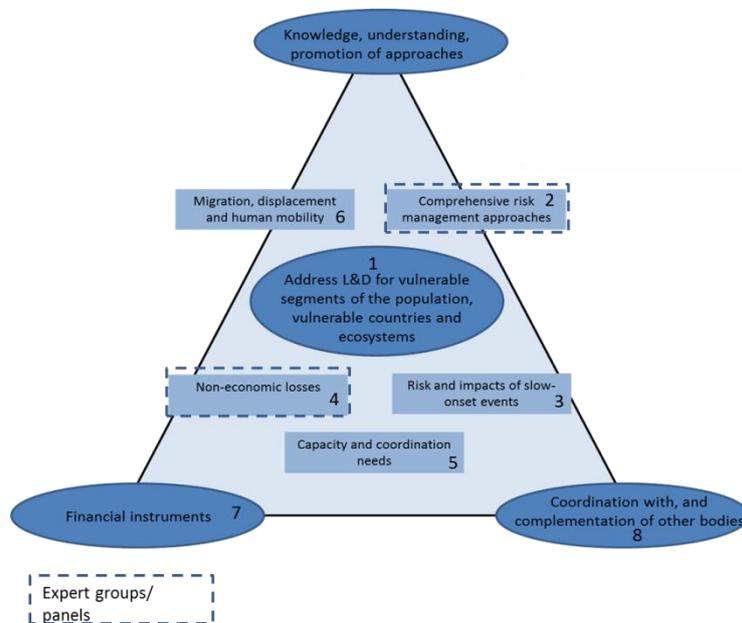


Figure 1: illustration of the WIM work plan

Source: own illustration

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Action area 1: Enhance the understanding of how loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change affect particularly vulnerable developing countries, segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihoods, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability, and the ecosystems that they depend on, and of how the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage can benefit them

Suggested main activities:

- A **background paper** which maps entry points for the integration of all 3 components of AA1 in all other AAs (by ExCom 2 meeting)
- A **letter** which invites other bodies such as the AC, LEG to consider making efforts to reduce loss and damage among the above components, and to (virtually) present their planned efforts at the next WIM meeting (immediately after ExCom 1)
- A **synthesis paper** which synthesises relevant findings on AA1 from the activities implemented in other AAs (before COP22)

In the implementation of this Action Area it will be important that the WIM pays attention to the fact that it addresses in essence **three different components** which may overlap but which also have their particular differences, namely

1. Particularly vulnerable developing countries;
2. Particularly vulnerable segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to different criteria,
3. Particularly vulnerable ecosystems that they depend on.

For example, the second rather addresses in-country aspects than thinking in country categories. Ecosystems in particular can often have transboundary features. All of the three are important and in principle should be given high attention.

According to the work plan, Action Area 1 consists of two main activities, of which a) speaks to inviting other (in particular UNFCCC) bodies to make efforts for reducing and averting losses and damages in the three above components, and b) developing recommendations for actions and next steps. In order to make good on the the delayed start of the work plan, the ExCom could start both activities a) and b) in parallel through different activities. This would also make sense as activity a) could be initiated, but its implementation will depend on the (already fix) work plan and approach of other bodies, while b) mostly refers to the WIM's own work plan.

The work plan stresses that this issue should become integrated across all action areas. A concrete activity to lay the ground work for the integration across all action areas in the work plan could be the elaboration of a **background paper** which identifies potential key entry points, questions and aspects to consider in each action area related to the three different components. The following table contains initial thoughts on key aspects in relation to particularly vulnerable segments of the population.

Table 1: Potential entry points for responding to the AA1 mandate for integration across other AAs

| Activity | Proposed approach/question |
|----------|----------------------------|
|----------|----------------------------|

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|--|
| AA2: Comprehensive risk management approaches incl. social protection systems |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does loss and damage affect social protection systems which target particularly vulnerable segments of the population? • Which solutions and experience exist in social protection systems in managing the situation of losses and damages, and in supporting rehabilitation? • What tools are available to governments etc. to identify the particularly vulnerable segments of the population in relation to loss and damage (e.g. Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments²), and how might they have to be adjusted to incorporate a loss and damage perspective? • How can comprehensive risk management approaches address the underlying drivers of vulnerability |
| AA3: Data and knowledge on slow onset events |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When taking stock of organisations' work on slow-onset events, how do they identify and address the needs of particularly vulnerable segments of the population? • What specific capacities are required and need to be advanced to address the needs of the particularly vulnerable? |
| AA4: Data and knowledge of non-economic losses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are key aspects to take into account regarding the needs of the particularly vulnerable segments of the population, incl. potential differences to economic losses? |
| AA5: Capacity and coordination needs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the development of the paper (5d) aspects related to particularly vulnerable segments of the population should be taken into account, including in the consideration of methods for scenario analysis and stress testing, which should also refer to different levels of expected warming |
| AA6: Migration, displacement and human mobility |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lens on vulnerable populations already explicitly referred to in work plan - What actions are well-suited to address the needs of the particularly vulnerable segments of the population in the context of migration, displacement and human mobility and related loss and damage? |
| AA7: Financial instruments and tools |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are important design features of financial instruments and tools to target the needs of the particularly vulnerable segments of the population? |

The background paper could serve as the basis to immediately take into account Action Area 1 aspects in the other Action Areas.

A **synthesis paper** prepared before COP22, potentially coupled with broader expert outreach should synthesise **key aspects and suggestions for ways forward** from the other Action Areas.

Action area 2: Enhance the understanding of, and promote, comprehensive risk management approaches (assessment, reduction, transfer, retention), including social protection instruments and transformational approaches, in building long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities

From a perspective of vulnerable populations, understanding the implications of loss and damage on the functioning, both near-term and long-term at higher (different) warming levels, as well as the limitations of social protection instruments is regarded as a key area to look into. This also has linkages to Action Area 5

² See e.g. <http://careclimatechange.org/tool-kits/cvca/>

and the mentioned scenarios for stress-testing, as e.g. the breakdown of social protection systems may also contribute to societal stress at significant scale.

Action area 5: Enhance the understanding of the capacity and coordination needs with regard to preparing for, responding to and building resilience against loss and damage associated with extreme and slow onset events, including through recovery and rehabilitation

Many humanitarian organisations (including CARE) are actively involved in the preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit which takes place in May 2016 in Istanbul.³ This Action Area is relevant at least to 2 of the WHS themes, namely “Humanitarian effectiveness” and “Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk”.

In implementing this action area it would be important to early-on liaise closely with those institutions preparing the WHS summit and to identify to what extent this preparation (including submissions made by various institutions in relation to climate change) already provides an important knowledge basis for the WIM’s work.⁴ Efficiency and effectiveness in the WIM’s approach is also demanded here due to capacity constraints in particular in organisations which operate in several of the ongoing severe humanitarian crises. However, the WIM may also have a particular role here given its UNFCCC-based mandate and a specific climate lens, which is not apparent in the WHS considerations. The WIM could also consider organising a high-level and expert event at the WHS.

Action area 6: Enhance the understanding of and expertise on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility; and the application of such understanding and expertise

It is important the WIM helps develop an understanding of climate change impacts at different levels of global warming on patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility. This should result in a differentiated understanding of different types of human mobility and appropriate approaches. For example, organising the resettlement of the population of a low-lying island affected by sea-level rise in the longer-term may involve different challenges than e.g. addressing larger-scale human mobility with millions of people leaving their homelands in areas which see a rapid deterioration of livelihood conditions (e.g. through interlinked droughts, desertification, poverty etc.).

Suggested activities

- **Publicly invite inputs** from organisations and experts on projected migration and displacement based on projected⁵ climate and non-climate related impacts in vulnerable populations (launch after ExCom 1 with deadline by end of the year); this should aim to generate a differentiated overview of key aspects of different types of climate-related human mobility (not limited to quantitative projections of no. of people)
- **Synthesis paper** for consideration at a subsequent ExCom meeting 2016

³ <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/sitemap#themcon>

⁴ See e.g. CARE’s policy brief

⁵ “projected” here should include both impacts from envisaged levels/limits of warming (1.5 and 2 degrees above pre-industrial) as well as expected warming based on current emission trajectories; this may take into account the different IPCC RCP scenarios, but also the results of the UNFCCC synthesis paper on the INDCs (expected for 1 November)