The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage is working on the nexus between non-economic losses and human mobility.

Understanding and addressing non-economic losses in the context of human mobility constitutes a crucial component of enhanced action and support for loss and damage. Addressing these types of losses involves a unique range of efforts that target individual and societal levels as well as the environment on which peoples’ livelihoods depend. They include, for instance, providing psychosocial support and access to healthcare, promoting cultural preservation and local or indigenous knowledge, maintaining social cohesion, and safeguarding or replacing degrading ecosystem services and biodiversity losses, in a manner that strengthens overall community resilience in different timescales. Each type of non-economic loss in the context of human mobility calls for distinct expertise and support in the developing country context. Accordingly, entities and organizations across the board play crucial roles in anticipating the risks of and addressing non-economic losses to help affected populations rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Human mobility can be viewed as a continuum from completely voluntary to completely forced population movement in the form of displacement, migration and planned relocation. Displacement is a clear form of non-economic loss in the continuum, and a situation of vulnerability to further economic and non-economic losses such as the loss of security and agency, which are impaired by displacement. Displacement disrupts social networks and existing support systems, which can lead to the loss of social ties, community traditions, and a sense of belonging. Leaving cultural heritage, livelihoods, and homes behind may have deep impacts on an individual’s overall well-being while exacerbating other risks.

Under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, knowledge, expertise and support are mobilized from a broad range of expert organizations and networks through the five thematic expert groups to advance work on slow onset events, non-economic losses, comprehensive risk management, displacement, and action and support. The Executive Committee, which comprises 20 representatives from Parties, guides the implementation of the Mechanism. The thematic expert groups co-create knowledge products and undertake activities jointly with the Executive Committee of the Mechanism to promote integrated and coherent approaches to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.
CONTENT OF THE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT

This technical guide will include a section focusing on understanding the risks and thematic sections covering a range of approaches, available resources for supporting the implementation, and systems for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches, following the mandate for the structure of technical guides as contained in decision 2/CMA 2, paragraph 26:

- Risk assessments, including long-term risk assessments, of climate change impacts
- Approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with these risks
- Resources available for supporting such approaches
- Monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches

The guide will draw on the latest science as well as impact data and information examined through a literature review and collected case studies on how local authorities, policymakers, communities or other stakeholders are affected by and have responded to key non-economic losses in the context of human mobility, including but not limited to, those related to health impacts, loss of life, indigenous or local knowledge, societal identity, cultural heritage and ecosystems.

Thematic sections will deep-dive into specific examples of non-economic impacts and responses that will serve as case studies and highlight lessons learned to tease out successful systemic interventions in responding to specific instances of non-economic losses associated with displacement, migration, immobility and planned relocation. There will also be an emphasis on aspects relevant to policymakers, such as the linkages to economic losses, existing legal and normative instruments, mechanisms, and frameworks to address non-economic losses consideration at different levels for displaced, migrant populations and the affected communities, as well as information on technical, legal and financial support available nationally, regionally and globally.

GET INVOLVED

- The Expert Group on Non-economic losses welcomes potential partners working on non-economic losses to engage in activities of the plan of action of the Expert Group. To submit your expression of interest, please register here.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- The development of this technical guide is co-led by the members of the Task Force on Displacement (representatives from the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and the Expert Group on Non-economic losses (representatives from Hugo Observatory for the Environment, Migration and Politics at the University of Liège and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States).
- For more information on non-economic losses, visit the UNFCCC website on the Expert Group on Non-economic Losses.
- For more information on displacement, visit the UNFCCC website on the Task Force on Displacement.
- For more information on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, visit the UNFCCC website on the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism.

Contact displacement@unfccc.int for more information on the work of the Task Force on Displacement, and loss-damage@unfccc.int for the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Executive Committee.