

## Guidance Note on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

**Working title:** Guidance note on integrating evidence-based solutions on hunger and poverty with climate action in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

**Objective:** To build understanding among Global Alliance members about NDCs, why they are important in efforts to integrate climate action with policies and programmes to address hunger and poverty, and how Global Alliance members can engage with the NDC 3.0 process.

---

### Introduction

Climate change is already exacerbating poverty and food insecurity, with disproportionate impacts on people living in poverty and in communities and regions with high levels of vulnerability and inequality ([IPCC, 2022a](#)). For example, a recent FAO report on the Unjust Climate showed how climate change is deepening social and economic inequalities faced by poor households and women in rural communities across the world (FAO, 2024a); while a Global Coalition to End Child Poverty report lays out the mutually reinforcing relationship between vulnerability to climate change and child poverty (GCECP, 2024). Climate change is also resulting in poorer health outcomes, increasing mortality and is a driver of health inequities. These risks will only increase with time and, unchecked, could further undermine progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and lead to hundreds of millions more people living in poverty, vulnerability and hunger in coming years and decades ([IPCC, 2022a](#)).

The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was established to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10). It was formed against a challenging global backdrop of significant setbacks in achieving the SDGs, in many cases intensified or made worse by the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Increasing efforts to address the causes and consequences of climate change and the biodiversity crisis are therefore essential to the fight against global hunger and poverty.

Many of the evidence-based policy instruments and programmes in the Global Alliance's 'policy basket' can make significant contributions to these efforts but these will be enhanced – and synergies with other sectors more effectively leveraged – by integrating them into national climate and environmental strategies. The development in 2025 of new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the build up to COP30 is therefore a critical window of opportunity for countries to embed these approaches into climate action going forward to make it more effective and inclusive, and to maximise its contribution to both climate goals and the fight against hunger and poverty.

## What are NDCs?

A Nationally Determined Contribution, or NDC, is a country's self-defined national pledge under the *Paris Agreement for climate action* to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (*climate change mitigation*) and adapt to climate change impacts (*climate change adaptation*). This includes commitments to provide and to request means of implementation, including financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building, to enable developing countries to implement climate action.

NDCs outline how much, and through which policies, measures and market instruments each country aims to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; how to reduce *vulnerability*, enhance *adaptive capacity* and increase *resilience* to climate impacts; and how to mobilize and align financial flows to reach those aims. Crucially, NDCs should be underpinned by the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and *just transitions* to ensure that climate action is inclusive of all countries, sectors and stakeholders, minimising any harmful social and economic impacts of the climate transition while maximising development gains that leave no one behind. See more on NDCs [here](#).

Every country is required to review and update their NDC every five years to reflect increased national ambition and evolving capabilities for climate action. Most countries submitted their intended national commitments in 2015 and provided new or updated versions five years later in 2020 ([UNFCCC NDC registry](#)). The first *global stocktake* was carried out in 2023 and found that the Paris Agreement has driven near-universal progress on climate action, but that the world is not on track to meet its climate goals. The third round of NDCs – [NDCs 3.0](#) – due in 2025, is therefore an opportunity for countries to scale up their ambitions, including in the context of the

New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance.

NDCs and related climate and environmental strategies - such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs) – also have a critical role to play in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. Analysis by the UNFCCC in 2024 found that 59 per cent of countries linked their NDCs to commitments on transitioning to a sustainable, low-carbon and resilient economy, while 66 per cent highlighted policy coherence and synergies between their domestic mitigation measures and development priorities including the SDGs ([UNFCCC 2024](#)).

NDCs can cover a wide range of sectors, including energy, agriculture, industrial processes and product use, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) and waste as well as health, education, water, infrastructure, social development and others. Many countries therefore aim to take a whole-of-government approach to their drafting, involving multiple ministries in the development of targets and actions. The drafting of a country's NDC is typically the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment or Climate Change. However, while some ministries are frequently consulted throughout (e.g., Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Health), others are only beginning to engage with the process (e.g. Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Agriculture). To ensure NDCs promote inclusive climate action that also combats poverty and hunger it is essential to guarantee that all key sectors and actors are fully engaged in their development and implementation.

For example, agriculture and food systems produce one third of greenhouse gases globally ([FAO 2024b](#)) but also stand out in their potential to contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation ([IPCC, 2022b](#)). They should therefore be central to the climate change mitigation plans of all countries. They are also critical for supporting climate adaptation and for strengthening the resilience of populations vulnerable to climate-related shocks and climate variability, including those reliant on natural resources and healthy ecosystems for their livelihoods. Almost half of the world's population depend on agriculture and food systems for their incomes and food security ([FAO 2023](#)), but as the planet's climate heats - and in the context of the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss – these systems face unprecedented challenges that threaten food security and poverty reduction efforts, and the ability of countries to achieve SDGs 1 and 2 ([FAO 2016](#)).

Risks to food security and agriculture and food systems were the most frequently reported climate-related risk in the last round of NDCs - with low-income countries even more likely to highlight these challenges - and almost all countries identify agriculture and food systems as a priority for climate change adaptation (94%) and mitigation (91%) ([FAO 2024c](#)). However, it is not only estimated that countries require a collective USD 201.5 billion annually until 2030 to achieve the pledges on agrifood systems in their current NDCs, but at least a six-fold increase - to USD 1.1 trillion annually - if these pledges are to be aligned with a 1.5 °C pathway ([CPI and FAO, 2025](#)). Further, only a fraction of NDCs include concrete measures explicitly targeting the specific vulnerabilities, needs and adaptive capacities of different food, agriculture and natural resource dependent populations groups. This highlights the scope for an enhanced and more ambitious approach to delivering a just transition in the agriculture and food sector that strengthens inclusive and nutrition-sensitive food value chains in the upcoming round of updated NDCs. For example, only 26% of existing NDCs include child- sensitive commitments on food and nutritional security ([UNICEF, 2024](#)) and only 21% of NDCs make concrete recommendations to address the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples (Carmona et al. 2024).

Similarly, only 13-14% of NDCs currently mention social protection as a programming or policy instrument, despite the strong potential for social protection to contribute to inclusive and more people-centred climate action and the stresses climate shocks play on social protection systems ([USP2030, 2024](#); [TFLASPCF, 2025](#)). In contrast, 91% of existing NDCs include health considerations ([WHO 2023](#)) reflecting - among other things - the pressures that climate change-related rising burdens of malnutrition and diseases are putting on health systems and the impacts of extreme weather events in disrupting access to essential health and nutrition services by damaging health infrastructure and affecting supply chains, transportation and communication networks (Romanello et al, 2022); as well as the estimated 5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the healthcare sector (Rodríguez-Jiménez, 2023).

## **How are NDCs relevant to the objectives of the Global Alliance**

Climate change is already exacerbating poverty, inequality, food insecurity and malnutrition, while disrupting livelihoods and increasing both voluntary migration and

displacement ([IPCC 2022a](#); [FAO 2024a](#)). In turn, these factors are themselves major drivers of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. This means that the Global Alliance cannot deliver for the poorest and most vulnerable or achieve its objectives to accelerate efforts to meet SDGs 1, 2 and 10 without addressing the impacts of climate change. For example, by 2050, it is estimated that an additional 28 million children will suffer from wasting (acute malnutrition) and an additional 40 million will suffer from stunting (chronic malnutrition) as a result of climate change ([Gates Foundation 2024](#)). In this context, many of the policy instruments in the Global Alliance's policy basket can make a crucial contribution to addressing the vicious cycle linking climate risk with vulnerability, poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger.

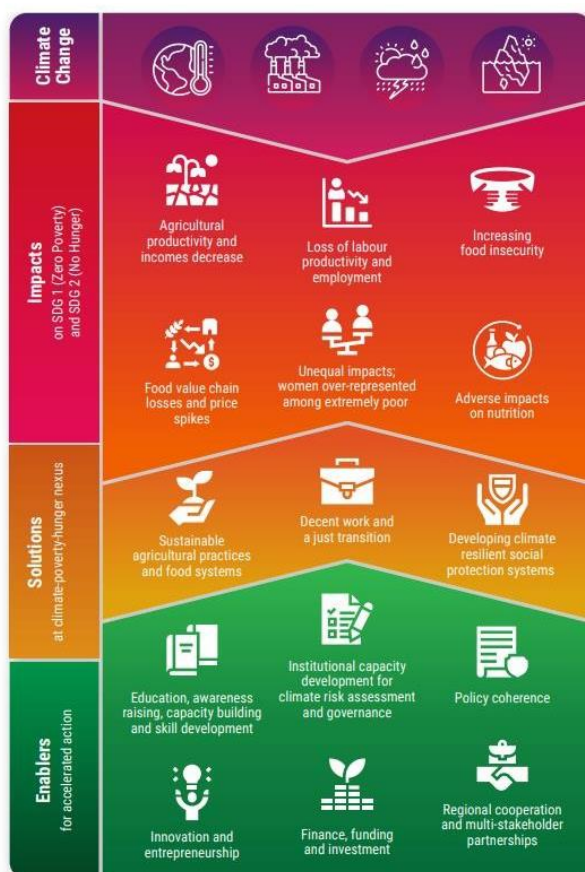
These connections were already evident in announcements at the Global Alliance's launch in November 2024 where governments, multilateral organisations, development banks, civil society and philanthropic partners made a series of specific commitments on climate action, such as scaling-up and strengthening cash transfers and school meals to promote climate adaptation and resilience, and enhancing efforts to support socioeconomic inclusion, smallholder and family farmers and access to water in the context of climate change. For example, the Inter-American Development Bank aims to generate increased financing for country-led policies and programmes that could extend climate-smart agricultural technologies to an additional 600 thousand smallholder farmers.

Crucially, in line with the Global Alliance's guiding principles on supporting demand-driven actions which put country needs first, NDCs are country-owned and based on national development priorities and plans. They are also underpinned by a whole-of-government and, increasingly, a whole-of-society approach which recognises that transformative climate action requires a collaborative and inclusive approach. This not only leverages synergies between social, economic, and environmental policies to maximise their effectiveness but helps to avoid pitfalls in the design and implementation of policies that might undermine or run counter to other climate and sustainable development objectives for example, by ensuring that the knowledge and skills of local communities and Indigenous Peoples are at the centre of climate action, and are funded and recognised as legitimate climate solutions.

NDCs are also essential for informing the allocation of climate finance. They underpin



estimates of countries' investment needs and can help to identify financing gaps. For example, agrifood systems only account for 15% of total funding needs in existing NDCs but contribute a third of global greenhouse gas emissions ([CPI and FAO, 2025](#)). Countries can therefore signal to climate finance institutions that they see the strategic value of particular policy instruments and programmes by integrating them into their NDCs and including estimates of respective climate finance needs. For example, USP2030 ([2023](#), [2024](#)) and the Taskforce for Linking Adaptive Social Protection and Climate Financing ([2025](#)) have been advocating for better integrating social protection into climate financing strategies, including the NDCs. A recent example involving a public works programme in Mozambique shows that this can be effective where in 2024 the *Green Climate Fund* (GCF) approved a \$28 million project - "Linking climate adaptation and social protection through decentralised planning". The project proposal demonstrated a clear alignment with the country's NDC that includes concrete social protection measures.



Sources : UN ESCAP, ADB, UNDP. 2024. People and Planet: Addressing the Interlinked Challenges of Climate Change, Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific.

## Integrating evidence-based action on hunger and poverty in NDCs

In the development of NDCs 3.0, Global Alliance partners can support countries to include ambitious actions that support the fight against poverty and hunger while contributing across all dimensions of climate action – adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage - and supporting just transitions. To do so, they should aim to identify concrete measures, actions and approaches that will be taken building on the evidence-based measures identified within the policy basket.

Instruments in the Global Alliance policy basket all meet the following criteria – they are:

- Well-defined policy instruments
- Implemented or implementable by governments
- Evidence-based
- Primarily directed towards people experiencing poverty and hunger
- Contributing towards SDGs 1 and 2.

The integration of these instruments into NDCs could include strengthening existing programmes, developing new programmes and efforts to strengthen cross-sectoral linkages between action on climate, poverty, food security, nutrition, education and health. Efforts to enhance and scale-up social protection measures in NDCs also highlighted the importance of the following principles:

- Following a people centred approach to climate action that ensures adequate coverage of all vulnerable and at-risk populations to 'leave no one behind'
- Promoting coherence between climate and other development policies, including social protection, nutrition, health, education, labour, agriculture, environment, migration and disaster risk management
- Identifying financing gaps and investment needs and linking these to international cooperation instruments, domestic resource mobilization, and climate finance opportunities, including in the form of grants and other highly concessional forms of finance.

While not all instruments in the Global Alliance policy basket have explicit climate objectives, many are already contributing - or have the potential to contribute - to climate goals. Examples of policy instruments that could be incorporated into NDCs as new or enhanced programmes and approaches include (but are not limited to):

[Integrated programmes for climate and shock resilience, including programmes](#)

### related to anticipatory, adaptive and shock-responsive social protection

Social protection systems and programmes – such as cash transfers and public works programmes – can be strengthened and adapted to provide support to people affected by hazards such as droughts, floods, or heatwaves, among other climate-related risks. They do this by reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to severe food and nutrition insecurity which is often linked to and exacerbated by such hazards, as well as by strengthening people's adaptive capacities. Adapting social protection systems to enhance climate resilience requires increased coordination between social protection, disaster risk management and climate actors, financing strategies that consider climate risks, flexible programme design and linkages with livelihoods support, as well as investments to enhance the resilience and responsiveness of operations and delivery. Examples include Kenya's [Hunger Safety Net Programme](#) that can scale up in advance of imminent hazards to provide emergency cash transfers to pre-identified vulnerable groups and Nicaragua's [Atención a Crisis Programme](#), which combined cash transfers with grants for productive investment to support climate resilient livelihood diversification away from activities vulnerable to climate-related shocks such as drought.

### Environmentally conditioned cash transfers (ECCTs)

ECCTs provide poor and vulnerable population groups with environmental incentive payments conditioned on the uptake and successful implementation of sustainable environmental and agro-ecological practices, for example climate-smart soil management or sustainable agroforestry and fisheries management. ECCTs contribute to both poverty-alleviation and environmental goals, and when implemented at scale can make direct contributions to more equitable and inclusive climate adaptation, mitigation and a just transition. Examples include the [Bolsa Verde](#) programme in Brazil and the [PROEZA](#) programme in Paraguay.

### Public works, employment guarantee schemes and direct job creation including community development programmes

Public works programmes provide participants with paid work, usually for a predetermined duration, thereby supplementing income from other work and livelihood activities and supporting efforts to improve food security and nutrition. As well as offering recurring work during specific seasons or periods of the year,



programmes may be introduced or scaled up before, during or after shocks, including climate-related shocks. There is also increasing evidence of the value of these programmes in supporting environmental and climate objectives, including improved natural resource management that directly contributes to climate adaptation and mitigation. Examples include the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme](#) in India and [Productive Safety Net Programme](#) in Ethiopia.

### Unemployment benefits

By responding to the loss of income, unemployment benefits fulfil a critical function in preventing individuals and households from falling into poverty and vulnerability when they become unemployed. Unemployment benefits can also play an important role in addressing the impact of climate-related shocks and in building the resilience of societies and economies. In combination with employment and job placement services they can also contribute to a just transition by ensuring that workers affected by shifts toward a more sustainable and greener economy have financial security while seeking new opportunities. For example, after a [commercial logging ban in China](#), unemployment protection, early retirement options and job placement services assisted over 700,000 affected workers.

### Inclusive insurance

Smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises across the world are highly vulnerable to climate-related risks, such as droughts, floods and storms. They also have very limited access to the risk financing tools and services that can provide protection from the resulting financial losses. Governments can support climate-vulnerable households to manage these risks and reduce vulnerabilities using an integrated set of risk management strategies that include access to risk reduction measures and financial services, including inclusive insurance provided by public institutions, private providers or through cooperative models. Examples include parametric agriculture insurance for smallholder farmers in Mexico through the [Tripartite](#) project.

### Integrated programmes for economic inclusion

Economic inclusion programs are bundles of interventions that support extremely poor and vulnerable households and communities to sustainably increase their incomes and assets. They do so by combining interventions such as cash transfers,

skills training, business capital, coaching and support to access markets. With an overarching goal of reducing poverty, building resilience, and creating employment opportunities, these programmes can be tailored to address climate vulnerability by: focusing on populations that are most exposed to climate risks; supporting them to shift away from climate-sensitive income sources; and building their adaptive capacity. Economic inclusion programmes have a proven track record in improving food and nutrition security by supporting the development of climate-resilient livelihoods along nutrition-sensitive value chains, and have high potential for sustainably improving food security and nutrition while reducing poverty, especially when orientated towards improving the quality of local diets as well as increased agricultural productivity. Examples of [climate-resilient economic inclusion programmes](#) include the World Bank-financed Innovation for Resilient Food Systems Project in Bolivia and Local Development and Adaptation Project in Chad, and the Decent Life Initiative in Egypt.

#### Climate resilient agricultural technologies and Pro-poor access to agricultural inputs, technology and knowledge

Agricultural transformation demands a radical shift, yet the scaling of agricultural technologies and practices remains a critical constraint. Overcoming climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss requires technologies and practices to be rapidly developed, tested, and deployed at scale by farmers. However, widespread uptake beyond successful pilots remains a key limiting factor. Climate resilient and sustainable agricultural technologies and practices can support poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers to increase agricultural production and improve their inclusion within all stages of agrifood value chains. They do this by making smallholder farmers more resilient to climate shocks and by increasing access to markets, whilst reducing environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting and restoring critical ecosystems. Especially important for smallholder farmers can be sustainable agricultural practices along with improved storage and handling postharvest, including cleaning, packaging and cold storage. The complexity and knowledge-intensity of technologies and practices underscores the importance of building resilience to the impacts of climate change, whilst ensuring agricultural productivity is environmentally sustainable and nature positive. Scaling requires a multi-pronged approach, with extension and rural advisory and support services at its core. These are essential entry points for producers as they strive to enhance

productivity, sustainability and profitability, and to cope with climate change, economic crises and other shocks. As such, they represent an important lever for rural transformation. Specific actions at all stages of the value chain to ensure agriculture is nutrition-sensitive can also ensure that these approaches improve the quality of local diets and translate into improved food security and nutrition. In this way, poverty reduction and hunger alleviation can be achieved by enhancing production efficiency and access to markets, for example through the kinds of approaches supported by the [PEARL](#) project in Cambodia.

#### Promote inclusive access to agricultural markets

Although agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for rural residents, greater agricultural production does not necessarily translate to greater income. Many smallholders are unable to sell their products or make a profit due to limited access to market information and minimal interaction with market actors. Therefore, it is crucial to promote inclusive access to agricultural markets to enable these smallholders to produce and sell agricultural products based on market demand. In the context of the climate crisis, these approaches can contribute to resilience and climate adaptation by increasing income, assets and diversifying livelihoods, which together increase the ability of individuals and households to adapt to climate stresses and help reduce exposure to them, for example as seen in the [SHARPE](#) programme in Ethiopia.

#### Institutional markets, including public procurement and pro-poor food pricing.

Governments can use their public purchasing power as an important policy instrument to reduce poverty, hunger and food insecurity. Sustainable, safe and healthy public food procurement has the potential to profoundly influence multiple components of the food chain and to deliver benefits to both producers and consumers of publicly procured food. Publicly acquired food can serve as stabilizing reserves in case of scarcity, including after extreme climate events, and can be leveraged to promote sustainable practices that directly contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

#### Integrated programmes for human capital development, including health and education and early childhood development

Investing in human development is critical to reducing poverty, hunger and the

vulnerability to climate risks, including through earlier childhood interventions. Policies and programmes that are informed by climate risks and that promote resilience outcomes in nutrition, education and health, enhance the ability of the most vulnerable to adapt to climate change, and to recover from losses and damages. At COP29, the [Baku Guiding Principles on Human Development for Climate Resilience](#) set out a holistic approach for aligning climate action with human development, calling for the integration of health, education, social protection, jobs and skills, and children and youth, across climate policies, action and finance.

These examples are not exhaustive and most – perhaps all – of the policy instruments in the Global Alliance policy basket have the potential to address poverty and hunger while simultaneously making a significant contribution to climate action, whether through providing [child and family support/ benefits](#), strengthening [prevention, detection and management of malnutrition](#), enhancing [land access, ownership and tenure security](#) and improving [access to irrigation](#).

## Next steps

In 2025, countries are required to submit new NDCs with their 2035 targets. The next few months are therefore a critical window of opportunity for integrating the Global Alliance's evidence-based policy instruments within countries' NDC 3.0 and implementation plans. Importantly, as the COP30 Presidency, Brazil is also in a unique position to build on its role in establishing the Global Alliance by guiding the Paris implementation process and encouraging countries to increase their level of NDC ambition including through integrating evidence-based solutions to address hunger and poverty into climate action.

National actors – and Global Alliance partners that are supporting them – can take the following steps to engage with the process:

### Understand the process

- Check your country's existing NDC in the UNFCCC's [NDC Registry](#).
- Review the current document and identify potential entry points – for example, does the existing NDC address the needs of specific vulnerable population groups with which you work?
- Get an understanding of where the process is at – if your country is a member of the NDC Partnership, you can find this information [here](#).
- Reach out to the national ministry or appointed agency leading the update of the

NDC to find out more - you can also consult with your national [UNFCCC focal point](#), typically in the Ministry of Environment.

- Identify the timeline and next steps for your country – for example, are there consultations with sectoral ministries planned to inform the update of the NDC?

### **Connect with key partners**

- Get in touch with the NDC Partnership (NDC-P) and UN partners to understand what support is already available and to explore additional support in incorporating measures that address hunger and poverty into the NDC - see, for example:
  - this [analysis of NDC-P support requests on food systems](#);
  - these [recommendations on enhancing NDCs for food systems](#) and the [Food Forward NDCs guidance tool](#);
  - the [FAO NDC Agrifood System Help Desk](#);
  - this analysis of [opportunities for closer integration of climate and nutrition](#);
  - these [quality criteria for integrating health into NDCs](#); and
  - these guidance notes on integrating social protection into NDCs for [Ministries of Social Development](#) and [Ministries of Environment](#).
- Identify social partners, civil society organisations, research institutions, private sector organisations or other actors with relevant expertise to support the process through consultations and social dialogue.

### **Identify entry points**

- Assess how existing sectoral policies, strategies and programmes for your sector (e.g. social protection, health, nutrition and food security, agriculture) address climate and identify any gaps or shortcomings.
- Consider the particular needs of poor or vulnerable population groups - for example, by using resources like UNICEF's [NDC for every Child Data Platform](#) and [Framework for Child Nutrition and Climate Action](#) or the [Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard](#) developed by UN Women, IUCN and the Kaschak Institute.
- Review the priority sectors for the NDC revision - for example, energy, transport, agriculture, health, water, infrastructure and social development - and consider how Global Alliance policy instruments may contribute to climate action in these areas.
- Check the [NDC 3.0 Navigator](#) for further guidance on how to develop ambitious and implementable NDCs, including for a [Just and Equitable Transition](#).



### *Help shape the NDC and its implementation*

- Bring together sectoral colleagues with those leading on the NDC to discuss how evidence-based policy instruments under the Global Alliance can help deliver inclusive climate action by:
  - Reducing vulnerability and building adaptive capacity and resilience for all.
  - Supporting national plans to address loss and damage.
  - Contributing to climate change mitigation goals, addressing adverse impacts of climate policies and supporting transitions to more sustainable, greener jobs and livelihoods.
- Connect the priorities you have identified for the NDC to national budgeting processes and fiscal allocations - or if funding options are not yet available, include measures like a "national consultation on financing strategies" or "exploring climate funds" to help identify sustainable financing models, including the scope for innovative financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships.
- Consider what targets and indicators are needed to measure the climate and sustainable development outcomes and the effectiveness of the fiscal resources allocated these climate initiatives - this will generate evidence for even stronger integration of policy instruments to address hunger and poverty in future NDCs.

Integrating evidence-based measures to address poverty, hunger and food security and nutrition into a country's NDC 3.0 will help to position these as a key element of climate strategies going forward. However, this is just the first step. Equally important will be to engage in the process of planning, financing and implementing the NDC over the next five years as well as feeding into the development of other key climate strategies like National Adaptation Plans as well as related environmental policies such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs).

Whatever steps you can take now will provide the foundation for strengthening and scaling-up evidence-based measures that address hunger and poverty while delivering inclusive climate action in the future. This is essential for addressing the long-term social, economic and environmental challenges that the climate crisis will bring.

## **Acknowledgements**

This guidance note was developed through a collaborative process among members of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and other partners, led by FAO and

with inputs from ILO, UNICEF, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), World Bank, WFP, WHO, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, IFAD, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Government of Egypt, the Government of India, BRAC and UN Women. It builds on and extends the contents of the joint guidance note on [\*Integrating Social Protection in Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)\*](#) developed by members of the Universal Social Protection 2030 Social Protection and Climate Change Working Group.

## Glossary of terms

**The Paris Agreement** (2015) is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted by 195 parties. Its main goal is to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels and for countries to build resilience. Article 4, paragraph 2, requires each country to review and update their NDC every five years.

**Climate action** is a concept captured by SDG 13 which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. It relates to the action needed to implement the Paris Agreement, and thus includes all mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage responses.

**Climate change mitigation** refers to policies and actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., promoting renewable energies, sustainable and healthy diets, or public transport) and enhance or protect the sinks that reduce their presence in the atmosphere (e.g., forests, oceans, soils). It implies a fundamental transformation of most economic sectors.

**Climate change adaptation** refers to the adjustment to current and expected climate change impacts to reduce harm. This includes actions that help reduce vulnerability to weather extremes and natural disasters, rising temperatures and sea-levels, or desertification. Examples could be building flood defences, using drought-resistant crops or improving water management.

**Climate finance** refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support climate action.

**Global Stocktake** refers to the Paris Agreement mandated process of periodically assessing the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and

its long-term goals. It enables countries and other stakeholders to take inventory, to see where they are collectively making progress toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement – and where they are not.

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is a body of the United Nations that was set up for assessing the scientific knowledge related to climate change. The IPCC regularly prepares comprehensive reports about climate change impacts, future risks and options for reducing its rate.

**Loss and damage** refers to the harm from (observed) impact and (projected) risks which can be economic or non-economic, and that occur despite, or in the absence of mitigation and adaptation efforts. This can include destruction of infrastructure and the loss of livelihoods and incomes, health, and cultural heritage.

**Just transition** involves maximising the social and economic opportunities of climate action, while minimising and carefully managing any negative impacts – including through effective social dialogue among all group impacted, and respect for fundamental labour principles and rights.

**The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)** was agreed at COP29 in Baku. Countries agreed to triple delivery of climate finance to developing countries to USD 300 billion annually by 2035, and to mobilise USD 1.3 trillion per year for developing countries from public and private sources by 2035.

**Resilience** is the capacity to withstand a hazardous event or trend, while maintaining the normal function of social and economic systems. This also means that people do not lose their capacity to adapt, learn and transform because of the shock they experienced (e.g., they can continue sending their children to school, take care of their health, nutrition and economic activities, etc).

**Social protection** refers to a set of policies and programmes, provided by governments, to protect people from income shortfalls, vulnerability, or poverty in the face of adverse situations such as job loss, illness or the impact of crises, transitions, and social exclusion throughout the life cycle. Social protection includes instruments such as cash and in-kind transfers, safety nets, social insurance, and public employment and training programmes.

**Sustainable Development Goals**, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, are global goals to end poverty, safeguard the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity. Recognizing the interconnectedness of poverty, inequality, health, education, and economic growth, the SDGs outline [17 goals](#) to drive sustainable progress worldwide.

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** stands for an international treaty aimed at addressing and mitigating the effects of climate change through global cooperation and action. UNFCCC also refers to the Secretariat responsible for supporting the operation of the convention.

**Vulnerability** in the context of climate change refers to the likelihood of being adversely affected by climate impacts. Socioeconomic vulnerabilities mean that some people have a lower capacity to cope and adapt. Vulnerability to climate risks tends to be higher for people with less means, those with disabilities, children, women, older people, migrants, and Indigenous Peoples.

## References

Carmona, Rosario, et al., 2024, Indigenous Peoples' rights in national climate governance: An analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*, 53. pp. 138-155. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01922-4>

CPI and FAO. 2025. [The triple gap in financing for agrifood systems](#).

FAO. 2016. [The State of Food and Agriculture 2016. Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security](#).

FAO, 2023. [Estimating global and country-level employment in agrifood systems](#).

FAO. 2024a. [The Unjust Climate: Measuring the impacts of climate change on rural poor, women and youth](#).

FAO. 2024b. [Greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood systems: Global, regional and country trends, 2000–2022](#).

FAO 2024c. [Agrifood systems in nationally determined contributions: Global analysis - key findings](#).

Gates Foundation. 2024. [The race to nourish a warming world](#).

Global Coalition to End Child Poverty. 2024. [A Disproportionate Burden: Children in Poverty Bearing the Brunt of the Climate Crisis](#).

IPCC. 2022a. 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability'. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change.

IPCC. 2022b. 'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change'. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Rodríguez-Jiménez, Lucas, 'The Carbon Footprint of Healthcare Settings: A systematic review', Journal of Advanced Nursing, vol. 79, no. 8, 17 May 2023, pp. 2830–2844. 21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.15671>

Romanello, Marina, et al., 'The 2022 report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change: Health at the mercy of fossil fuels', Lancet, vol. 400, 25 October 2022, pp. 1619–1654. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(22\)01540-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(22)01540-9)

Task Force on Linking Adaptive Social Protection and Climate Financing (TFLASPCF). 2025. Placing people at the centre of NDCs 3.0: The power of social protection to accelerate climate action.

UN ESCAP, ADB, UNDP. 2024. People and Planet: Addressing the Interlinked Challenges of Climate Change, Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific.

UNFCCC. 2024. Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement: Synthesis report by the secretariat.

UNICEF. 2024. UNICEF Toolkit: Child- and youth-sensitive Nationally Determined Contributions.

USP2030. 2023. Joint statement of the USP 2030 Working Group Social Protection and Climate Change: Directing international climate finance to social protection.

USP2030. 2024. Integrating social protection in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

WHO. 2023. 2023 WHO review of health in Nationally Determined Contributions and long- term strategies: Health at the heart of the Paris Agreement.