

Implementing an inclusive climate services project

Projects to deliver climate services have the potential to help everyone to benefit from the use of weather and climate information. This means being socially inclusive at every stage of the project cycle. Here are some points for project and programme managers to consider.



Assess people's needs for climate and weather information, including in the context of their vulnerabilities, capacities, needs and specific risks. Consider the different needs for women, men, young people, the elderly, people of different ethnic, social and income groups, and abilities. Remember that some disabilities are invisible.



Include people from different income and ethnic groups, gender, age and ability groups intentionally in planning processes. Consider separate planning meetings (eg. women only, ethnic minorities, young or old only) to highlight and respond to people's different needs.

Consult with people with disabilities and their carers to plan emergency warnings and communications campaigns so that people with diverse physical and mental abilities can understand and respond to alerts with sufficient time.



Invest in communications that account for different groups' access and availability to different communications channels. For example, do women have access to mobile phones, TV or radio? Is the target population literate? How can different communications channels reinforce each other and ensure there are no gaps?

Invest in communications that account for diverse people's different physical and mental abilities. Appoint extra resources to make communications more accessible and timely, eg. for braille, sign language, loud speakers, etc.



Consider people's social and economic roles – whether differentiated by gender, income, class, caste, age or ability, and how it affects their ability to benefit from climate services. Make sure everyone gets an equal opportunity to benefit.

For example, when are different groups of people at home, in the fields, fishing, in offices, factories, workshops, other external places for work (including informal sector) or in places of religious worship or recreation? How does this affect their access to information?

Part of implementing climate services in an inclusive way includes 'making enough time'. Weather information and warning can save lives and property if communicated with enough lead time. This is paramount for people who live with disabilities because they often need special assistance.



Monitor and evaluate honestly how different groups of people benefit differently from weather and climate information. This could include data that is disaggregated by gender, income, occupation, age and whether people have identified as having a disability. It is vital to set up these monitoring and evaluation systems and metrics from the outset of a project, in order to collect good data.

An impact assessment can determine how accessible, timely and relevant the information is, and also whether or not people have the capacities, including the power, to make changes in their lives and livelihoods.

Such evaluations can also highlight how informal and formal care systems as well as climate service delivery itself could be enhanced to support people.

