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ZAMBIA

ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE TRANSPARENCY

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STEP BY STEP GUIDE

DISCLAIMERS

This is a step-by-step guide for governance and institutional arrangement required for Urban Loss and Damage Transparency.

The findings, suggestions, and conclusions presented in this Summary reflect the discussions held with thematic experts and do not represent UNEP's or UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre's (UNEP-CCC) position on Indicators and Reporting Tools for Loss and Damage.

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Part I

Introduction

Part I: Introduction

- ## Rationale and Background:

Zambia, like many developing countries, faces increasing vulnerability to climate change, with more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves. These hazards are causing significant economic, infrastructural, and social losses. However, Zambia's institutional capacity for systematically assessing, reporting, and addressing loss and damage remains in its early stages of development.

- ## Gaps in Zambia's Institutional Framework for Loss and Damage

Currently, Zambia lacks a dedicated national framework for loss and damage assessment and reporting. The country's climate response primarily focuses on adaptation and mitigation, as outlined in its **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** and **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**. While these documents acknowledge the importance of addressing loss and damage, they do not provide detailed mechanisms for assessment, reporting, or response strategies.

- ## Why Strengthening Loss and Damage Governance is Crucial

Establishing robust governance structures for loss and damage reporting in Zambia is essential for:

1. **Evidence-Based Decision-Making** – Reliable data on climate-induced losses can inform national policies, disaster response strategies, and resource allocation.

2. **Access to International Support** – Transparent and systematic reporting strengthens Zambia's ability to secure international climate finance and technical assistance.

3. **Improved Risk Management** – A well-structured system for tracking loss and damage enables better preparedness and resilience-building efforts.

4. **Compliance with International Obligations** – As global climate frameworks evolve, Zambia needs to align its reporting mechanisms with international standards, such as the **Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement**.

- **Developing Institutional Arrangements for Loss and Damage**

To address these challenges, Zambia should establish:

- **A centralized coordinating body** responsible for overseeing loss and damage assessment, reporting, and response strategies.

- **Clear data collection and management systems** that integrate loss and damage tracking into climate and disaster risk governance.

- **Stakeholder engagement mechanisms** to ensure collaboration across government agencies, local authorities, and communities.

- **Integration of loss and damage considerations** into existing climate policies, disaster risk management plans, and financial strategies.

- **Strengthening Urban-Level Institutional Frameworks**

In addition to national frameworks, city-level governance structures are essential, as urban areas are on the frontline of climate change impacts. Cities in Zambia face challenges such as urban heat islands, poor drainage systems leading to flooding, and aging infrastructure vulnerable to extreme weather events. Developing urban institutional arrangements for loss and damage can:

- **Provide localized data** – City-specific loss and damage assessments help design targeted urban resilience strategies.

- **Enhance local capacity** – Strengthening municipal institutions improves rapid response and long-term adaptation planning.

- **Facilitate resource allocation** – Accurate city-level reporting can help prioritize funding for urban climate resilience.

- **Improve coordination** – Stronger city-level governance ensures alignment with national policies and international frameworks.

- **Enhance Transparency and Ground-Level Understanding:**

By establishing clear governance and institutional arrangements for L&D assessment at the city level, we can gain a better understanding of the specific vulnerabilities and impacts experienced by urban communities. This ground-level perspective is critical for informing and shaping national-level policies and strategies, ensuring they are relevant, effective, and equitable.

- **The Importance of Transparency and the Enhanced Transparency Framework:**

Transparency is paramount in loss and damage assessment and reporting. A robust and transparent system ensures that data is accurate, reliable, and accessible to all relevant stakeholders. This not only builds trust and accountability but also facilitates effective decision-making and resource allocation.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement provides a standardized framework for countries to report on their climate actions and progress. By establishing robust governance and institutional arrangements for L&D assessment at the urban level, Zambia can strengthen its ability to meet the requirements of the ETF, demonstrating its commitment to transparent and accountable climate action. This will further enhance Zambia's credibility in international climate negotiations and its ability to access financial and technical support for addressing loss and damage.

- **Enhancing Readiness for the Loss and Damage Fund**

As the **Loss and Damage Fund** becomes operational, countries with well-developed institutional arrangements will be better positioned to access financial support. By implementing comprehensive and transparent systems now, Zambia can **strengthen its ability to secure funding** and **effectively channel resources** toward addressing climate-induced losses at both national and local levels.

By taking proactive steps to build institutional capacity for loss and damage assessment and reporting, Zambia can enhance its climate resilience and position itself as a leader in implementing loss and damage strategies in the region.

Part II

Framework for Assessing Loss & Damage Governance in Zambia: Challenges & Solutions

Part II: Framework for Assessing Loss & Damage Governance in Zambia: Challenges & Solutions

Here is a Step-by-step guide and framework for national level assessing the governance and institutional arrangements for loss and damage (L&D) assessment and reporting in Zambia, along with challenges and key solutions:

1. **Review Existing Frameworks and Policies**

This step is crucial as it provides the foundation for understanding Zambia's current approach to climate change and L&D. By examining key documents like the NCCRS, NDC Implementation Framework, and disaster management policies, assessors can identify existing commitments, strategies, and gaps related to L&D. This review helps ensure that any new L&D arrangements align with and build upon existing national priorities and frameworks.

- Examine Zambia's National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS)

- Analyse the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Framework

- Review the National Development Plan and Disaster Risk Management policies

2. **Map Key Institutions and Stakeholders**

Identifying the main actors involved in climate change and disaster management is essential for understanding the institutional landscape. This mapping exercise helps reveal potential overlaps, gaps, or conflicts in responsibilities among different agencies. Assessing the DMMU's role is particularly important as it likely plays a central part in disaster response and could be key in L&D assessment and reporting.

- Identify the main government bodies responsible for climate change and disaster management

- Determine which ministries or agencies are involved in L&D assessment and reporting

- Assess the role of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU)

3. **Evaluate Coordination Mechanisms**

Effective L&D assessment and reporting require strong coordination across different government levels and sectors. Analysing existing coordination mechanisms helps identify strengths and weaknesses in current practices. This evaluation can reveal opportunities for improving information sharing, decision-making processes, and policy coherence related to L&D.

- Analyse inter-ministerial coordination on L&D issues

- Assess the effectiveness of the national climate change committee

- Examine coordination between national and sub-national levels

4. Assess Data Collection and Management Systems

Robust data systems are fundamental for accurate L&D assessment and reporting. This step involves examining the types of data collected, methodologies used, and how data is stored and shared. Identifying a centralized database (or lack thereof) is crucial for understanding how L&D information is managed and accessed across different institutions.

- Investigate existing systems for collecting climate-related L&D data

- Evaluate the quality and comprehensiveness of available data

- Determine if there's a centralized database for L&D information

5. Analyse Reporting Mechanisms

Reviewing current reporting processes helps ensure that Zambia's L&D reporting aligns with both national needs and international requirements. This analysis can identify areas where reporting can be streamlined or improved, and where additional capacity or resources may be needed to meet reporting obligations.

- Review Zambia's current reporting processes for climate-related impacts and losses

- Assess alignment with international reporting requirements

- Identify gaps in reporting capabilities or procedures

6. Evaluate Capacity and Resources

Assessing the available expertise, human resources, and financial allocations for L&D-related activities is critical. This evaluation helps identify resource gaps and areas where capacity building is needed, ensuring that Zambia has the necessary capabilities to effectively assess and report on L&D.

- Assess technical expertise and human resources available for L&D assessment

- Evaluate financial resources allocated for L&D-related activities

- Identify capacity-building needs and gaps

7. Examine Stakeholder Engagement

Inclusive stakeholder engagement is essential for comprehensive L&D assessment and reporting. This step helps ensure that diverse perspectives, including those of

vulnerable communities, are incorporated into L&D processes. It also assesses public awareness and access to information, which are crucial for building support for L&D initiatives.

- Evaluate the involvement of local communities, civil society, and the private sector

- Determine the extent of collaboration between national and local government levels

- Assess public awareness and access to information on L&D

8. **Review Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks**

Analysing existing M&E systems helps ensure that L&D is effectively integrated into broader climate change monitoring efforts. This review can identify opportunities to enhance L&D tracking within existing frameworks, improving the overall effectiveness of climate change response strategies.

- Analyse existing monitoring and evaluation systems for climate change impacts

- Assess how L&D is integrated into these frameworks

Potential Challenges to be explored:

- Fragmented coordination mechanisms

- Limited institutional capacity, especially at sub-national levels

- Insufficient financial resources

- Lack of comprehensive data collection and management systems

- Weak inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination

- Limited public awareness and stakeholder engagement

- Inadequate integration of L&D into existing climate and disaster risk frameworks

Key Solutions:

- Establish a centralized coordinating body for L&D assessment and reporting

- Develop a national L&D framework that outlines roles, responsibilities, and reporting procedures

- Implement a centralized data management system to consolidate L&D information

- Strengthen institutional capacities through training and capacity-building programs

- Enhance stakeholder engagement mechanisms, including local communities and civil society

- Integrate L&D considerations into existing climate change and disaster risk reduction policies

- Develop clear mandates and terms of reference for all entities involved in L&D assessment and reporting

- Seek international support and funding for L&D initiatives

- Improve climate risk assessments to better understand and quantify potential losses and damages

- Regularly review and update institutional arrangements to ensure adaptability to emerging needs

Part III

Step by step guide for Urban Level transparency in Zambia: Challenges & Solutions

Part III- Step by step guide for urban level transparency assessment

Here's an additional step-by-step guide and framework for assessing governance and institutional arrangements for loss and damage (L&D) transparency and reporting of a city in Zambia:

1. **Review City-Level Policies and Plans**

This step is crucial as it provides the foundation for understanding the city's current approach to climate change and L&D. By examining key documents, assessors can identify existing commitments, strategies, and gaps related to L&D at the local level. This review helps ensure that any new L&D arrangements align with and build upon existing city priorities and frameworks.

- Examine the city's development plans and strategies

- Analyse local climate change action plans or resilience strategies

- Review any city-specific disaster risk management policies

2. **Map Key Local Institutions**

Identifying the main actors involved in climate change and disaster management at the city level is essential for understanding the local institutional landscape. This mapping exercise helps reveal potential overlaps, gaps, or conflicts in responsibilities among different local agencies. Assessing the local DMMU office's role is particularly important as it likely plays a central part in disaster response and could be key in L&D assessment and reporting.

- Identify the main city government departments responsible for climate change and disaster management

- Determine which local agencies are involved in L&D assessment and reporting

- Assess the role of the local Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) office

3. **Evaluate Local Coordination Mechanisms**

Effective L&D assessment and reporting require strong coordination across different city departments and sectors. Analysing existing coordination mechanisms helps identify strengths and weaknesses in current practices. This evaluation can reveal opportunities for improving information sharing, decision-making processes, and policy coherence related to L&D at the city level.

- Analyse inter-departmental coordination on L&D issues within the city government

- Assess the effectiveness of any city-level climate change committees

- Examine coordination between city authorities and national-level institutions

4. Assess City-Level Data Collection and Management

Robust data systems are fundamental for accurate L&D assessment and reporting. This step involves examining the types of data collected, methodologies used, and how data is stored and shared at the city level. Identifying a centralized database (or lack thereof) is crucial for understanding how L&D information is managed and accessed across different local institutions.

- Investigate existing systems for collecting climate-related L&D data at the city level
- Evaluate the quality and comprehensiveness of available local data
- Determine if there's a centralized database for L&D information in the city

5. Analyse Local Reporting Mechanisms

Reviewing current reporting processes helps ensure that the city's L&D reporting aligns with both local needs and national requirements. This analysis can identify areas where reporting can be streamlined or improved, and where additional capacity or resources may be needed to meet reporting obligations.

- Review the city's current reporting processes for climate-related impacts and losses
- Assess alignment with national reporting requirements
- Identify gaps in local reporting capabilities or procedures

6. Evaluate City-Level Capacity and Resources

Assessing the available expertise, human resources, and financial allocations for L&D-related activities at the city level is critical. This evaluation helps identify resource gaps and areas where capacity building is needed, ensuring that the city has the necessary capabilities to effectively assess and report on L&D.

- Assess technical expertise and human resources available for L&D assessment within the city government
- Evaluate financial resources allocated for L&D-related activities at the local level
- Identify capacity-building needs and gaps specific to the city

7. Examine Local Stakeholder Engagement

Inclusive stakeholder engagement is essential for comprehensive L&D assessment and reporting. This step helps ensure that diverse perspectives, including those of

vulnerable urban communities, are incorporated into L&D processes. It also assesses public awareness and access to information, which are crucial for building support for L&D initiatives at the city level.

- Evaluate the involvement of community groups, local businesses, and civil society organizations in L&D assessment and reporting
- Determine the extent of collaboration between city government and local academic institutions

8. Review Local Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks

Analysing existing M&E systems helps ensure that L&D is effectively integrated into broader climate change monitoring efforts at the city level. This review can identify opportunities to enhance L&D tracking within existing frameworks, improving the overall effectiveness of the city's climate change response strategies.

- Analyse existing monitoring and evaluation systems for climate change impacts at the city level
- Assess how L&D is integrated into these local frameworks

9. Assess Urban-Specific Vulnerabilities

Cities face unique climate risks and vulnerabilities due to factors like population density, infrastructure, and urban heat island effects. This step is crucial for identifying and prioritizing the most pressing L&D concerns specific to the urban context, ensuring that assessment and reporting efforts are tailored to the city's needs.

- Identify key climate risks and vulnerabilities specific to the urban context
- Evaluate the city's critical infrastructure and its exposure to climate hazards

10. Analyse City-National Linkages

Understanding how city-level L&D assessment and reporting mechanisms align with national frameworks is essential for ensuring coherence and efficiency. This step helps identify potential gaps or inconsistencies between city and national approaches and can reveal opportunities for improved coordination and resource sharing.

- Examine how the city's L&D assessment and reporting mechanisms align with national frameworks
- Assess the flow of information and resources between city and national levels

This framework provides a structured approach to evaluating a Zambian city's institutional arrangements for L&D assessment and reporting, considering the unique challenges and opportunities present in urban contexts.

Conclusion

Improving how Zambia tracks and reports Loss and Damage (L&D), especially in cities, is essential for strengthening resilience and tackling the increasing effects of climate change. By establishing clear reporting structures, better coordination, and inclusive decision-making, Zambia can build a more effective system to measure and respond to climate-related losses.

A strong urban L&D reporting system will help gather accurate, localized data that reflects the unique challenges of urban communities. This data is key to shaping smart policies, directing resources where they're needed most, and improving strategies for climate adaptation—ultimately making cities more resilient.

Transparent and well-structured L&D reporting also ensures that Zambia meets its international commitments, including those under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). By accurately documenting climate-related losses in its Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), Zambia can reinforce its credibility in global climate discussions and strengthen its case for climate finance.

As the Loss and Damage Fund becomes operational, Zambia's ability to secure funding will depend on the quality and transparency of its reporting. Investing now in stronger governance and institutional structures will position the country to access the financial support needed to cope with climate impacts.

In short, strengthening L&D governance—especially in urban areas—is a smart, forward-thinking step. By improving its ability to assess, report, and respond to climate-induced losses, Zambia can better protect its people, economy, and environment from the growing risks of climate change

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