HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK
Habitat International Coalition

Community-generated Data for Remedy

Proponent: Housing and Land Right Network – Habitat International Coalition
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Short description

HLRN will develop and apply its Climate-cahnge Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) as a hand-held app to complement the online version for communities to quantify and record their incurred (and/or prospective) economic and nonmarket* impacts (costs, loss and damage) associated with climate-change (CC). HLRN and partners will collect these self-determined data in three diverse contexts to inform the local, national and international pursuit of remedies, including those planned at the UNFCCC Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FLD).

Detailed Description of project

Quantifications of costs, loss and damage (CLD) arising from degradation and destruction of habitats—whether due to conflict, environmental hazard or climate change—have been rare, macro scale, partial, without legal framing, remotely conducted and address governments exclusively. For remedies that communities need, including restitution, return, resettlement and/or compensation schemes, HIC-HLRN proposes to put its impact-quantification methodology in the form of a mobile app that puts local-scale enumeration tools in the affected people's hands. With this technology, communities themselves will determine livelihood, property, environmental and nonmarket values within the UN remedy and reparation and sustainable-development frameworks, as well as related criteria of international law and emerging best practice.

Knowledge creation

Since 2009, HIC-HLRN has implemented its digital Impact-assessment Tool (IAT) at diverse scales in 30 cases across 8 countries to collect enumeration data serving multiple preventive and remedial purposes. This project will use crowdsourced data to inform remedies and help communities pursue solutions, whether adjudicative or administrative. This iteration seeks to convert the Tool to the optimum local cellphone platform, as well as an online version for other devices. The app will be backed by a secure database to host and manage the data gathered through a purposive sample of household responses to guide efforts toward resourcing communities' self-determined and evidence-informed solutions.

Since 2006, HLRN has maintained a Violation Database (VDB) to records and analyze trends in displacement and destruction and other forms of housing and land deprivation arising from practices that breach the substantive rights of affected communities. HLRN publishes an annual report of trends on World Habitat Day each October. Since 2021, HLRN further developed the VDB method and legal basis to include such impacts arising from environmental hazards and climate change events that involve identifiable duty bearers and rights holders.

Capacity development

* 'Nonmaterial,' 'intangible,' 'nonmarket' and 'noneconomic' loss and damage (NELD) are synonymous terms in this context.

Encouraging and harnessing **community engagement**, the proposed project's community **capacity-development** component will involve training on the use of the IAT, while also imparting the human rights and international law criteria for remedying the effects of displacement, dispossession and destruction that accompany loss and damage associated with climate change.

HLRN will build on its case repertoire and experience, in cooperation with local communities, to operationalize a hand-held and online version of the tried-and-tested IAT to compile real costs, losses and damage incurred by households and other legal persons. The output will be a comprehensive assessment of replacement values to inform anticipated remedies.

Immediately, this project contributes to post-conflict and/or post-disaster reconstruction, but also to support the FLD's yet-to-be-developed procedures and eligibility criteria for international norm-compliant solutions. These methods, producing verifiable and locally generated data, are needed at the frontend of policy formulation, program planning and building the community of remedial practice. They will also provide a needed alternative to the state-to-state discourse dominating the FLD approach so far, which has yet to address affected communities as agents in their own remedy. While, leaving replacement and adaptation of climate change-affected infrastructure and public facilities to their respective spheres of government, this human-scale approach to assess household values will serve to encourage remedial mechanisms (e.g., FLD) to achieve their often-promised human-centered approach.

In each of three distinct cases, HIC-HLRN will work with already established partners to survey a purposive sample of 100 households in each locality to quantify the communities' CC-related CL&D. These samplings will provide a rational basis for extrapolating the impacts of the communities as a whole. The outputs will be the main subject of the project's **diffusion and advocacy** component, to spread the practice and demonstrate how it is possible to operationalize the normative principles of making remedies human centered and human rights compliant.

In the longer term, this initiative will contribute to **building trust for a shared future**, while simultaneously **restoring faith in international law criteria and related institutions**, and delivering reliable data required for **innovative financing of housing, land and property (HLP) restitution and restorative reconstruction** after catastrophic loss and damage. Not only will the output serve as the communities' permanent and living record of assets and values subject to restitution, but it also will provide a model for further applications in diverse cases, greatly contributing to the **sustained impact** of the project.

Diffusion and advocacy

HLRN will host the metadata in a project-specific database and enter summary reports in the publicly accessible VDB, as well as publish developments in the periodical *Land Times*/*أوال الأرض*. The cases will also ground advocacy with communities and partners before the FLD Board at its regular meetings, as well as with FLD technical officers.

Activities

The project's phased activities will involve:

I. Curriculum development in local languages
II. Community-based training in two parts:
    A. Normative training in the theoretical aspects (Remedy and Reparation Framework)
    B. Technical training in the implementation (how to use the app)
III. Software development
IV. Adapting the Tool to local specificity
V. Database development
VI. Data collection with built-in validation features
VII. Compilation and analysis of the data gathered
VIII. Diffusion and advocacy before the FLD, other international mechanisms and national authorities

App features

App features will include:

Discrete self-identification
GPS location settings (optional for either on-site or remote reporting)
Options for pre-emptive (baseline), real-time and post-event application
Embedded manual for guidance
Fields for quantification of:

- Affected households' material values and assets;
- Affected households' nonmaterial/noneconomic values and assets;
- Material values and assets indirectly affecting households and the community/public;
- Additional nonmaterial/noneconomic values and assets (indirect and social);
- Access to secure database to store, view and sort data; and
- Digital report generator.

Types of values and assets at stake to be quantified:

A: Household values and assets: Replacement values of material assets possessed;[†]
B: Household expenditures: Changes in regular monetary expenditures;
C: Nonmaterial household assets: Changes in community connections, sociocultural values and practices, social capital, etc.;
D: Material community/civic values and assets: Changes in collective tenure of structures, lands, water resources, fishery and hunting grounds, environment, cemeteries, cultural/religious sites, commons, etc.;
E: Nonmaterial community/civic values and assets: Changes in broader noneconomic and sociocultural values and practices, intangible cultural endowment, etc.

Cases of application:

The output of three diverse applications of the Tool will be among the first quantification cases submitted to the FLD Board to inform eligibility and methodology criteria for remedy and reparations. HIC-HLRN will also distribute these case reports more widely as input to other national, regional and international facilities seeking to remedy climate-change impacts on communities. This will put these surveyed communities at the head of the line of eligibility for remedies, because they will be prepared with reliable quantification data. Beyond the direct beneficiaries, this human-scale impact-assessment model will contribute to wider practices through subsequent local initiatives, without requiring re-invention of the wheel.

[†] Enjoyed through freehold, leasehold, traditional occupation, or other legitimate tenure type. See *Security of Tenure: Evolving Norms through the UN Human Rights and Development Systems* (Cairo: HIC-HLRN, 2024).

1. *Lake-rise-affected fisherfolk at Kigungu-Makusa, Entebbe, Uganda*



Water levels of Lake Victoria have been on the rise in recent years, forcing the fisherfolk of Makusa and Lwamunyu islands to evacuate on orders of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). The site of their resettlement is a landing on the banks of the Lake at the edge of Entebbe Municipality. The continuing water rise in 2020-2021 resulted in floods that led to massive destruction of property, loss of lives, displacement of people, and interruption of economic activities.

The flood-prone areas are not mapped for proper implementation of policies that restrict settlement in such areas. The 21-year historical water level dataset was fitted on a Generalized Extreme Value distribution to obtain the maximum water level. A flood map produced for the recorded maximum water level (12.91m) in 2021 resulted in 6.05 sq. km of the flooded area, identifying the most-affected villages, including the roughly 3,857 villagers (700 households) of Kigungu-Makusa on the western shoreline of Entebbe. Flood predictions for the 20, 50, and 100-year return periods show an increase in water levels and the 100-year return level resulted in about 18% of Entebbe being flooded.

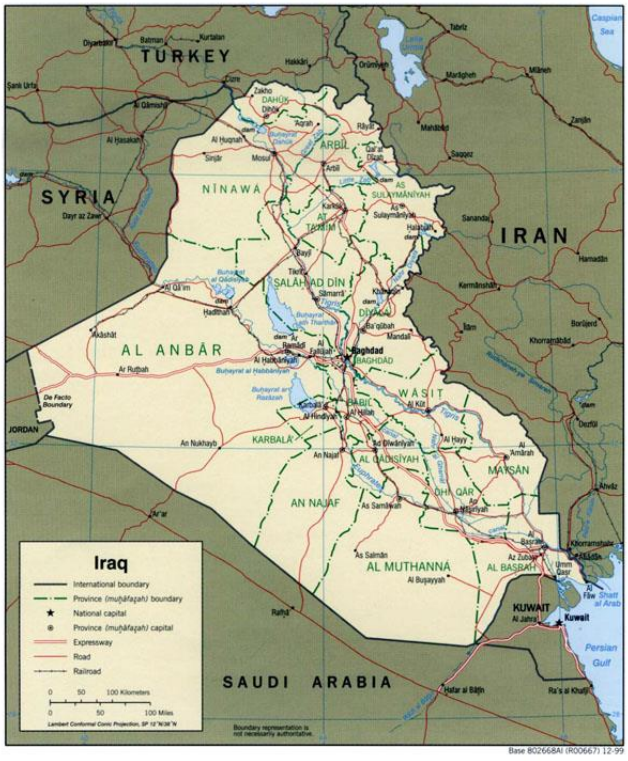
In 2019–22, HIC-HLRN and Shelter and Settlement Alternatives -Uganda Human Settlements Network (SSA -UHSN) conducted a joint project assessing women's values affected by the Makusa and Lwamunyu community displacement and the prospects of further displacement. HIC-HLRN will partner with UHSN members, closely coordinating with the Habitat Defenders Africa young professionals, to quantify actual costs, losses and damage arising from rising waters in the Kigungu-Makusa settlement by surveying a purposive sample of 100 households, using the Tool adapted to hand-held devices.

2. *Drought-afflicted small-scale farmers in Ninewa, Iraq*

In one of the world's five countries most impacted by climate change, water has become scarce in Iraq as amid decades of conflict, poor environmental management, lack of infrastructure maintenance, damming and damming of water courses in neighboring countries. While rivers account for more than 90% of the country's freshwater reserves, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers water levels have fallen by 30% since the 1980s, and are expected to fall another 50% by 2030.

The agricultural sector, which alone accounts for 60–80% of Iraq's total water use, has been hardest hit by the water crisis. This critical situation, in turn, threatens food security and forecloses food sovereignty, with the country's growing dependence on food imports at a time when the Iraqi dinar undergone severe devaluation. Resulting displacement has affected rural communities in particular. The Ninewa Plains in northern Iraq have exemplified the inter-linkages between climate, peace and security. Climate change and related social tensions are cited as motivation for 1 in 4 farmers to give up agriculture and move.

To assess the material and nonmaterial impacts of drought, HIC-HLRN will partner with al-Aghsan Foundation for Agriculture and Environment Development, and with Together to Protect the Human and Environment locally to survey 100 households in rural Ninewa.



3. Drought-afflicted fisherfolk in Maysān, Iraq

Between the summers of 2020 and 2022, all of Iraq's fabled Mesopotamian Marshes lost 46% of their surface water. With less water available for water buffalos or fishing, dependent local populations have lost their livelihood and income.

The rivers feeding Huwayza Marsh to the east al-Maysan have experienced depleted oxygen and a 20-fold increase in salinity, accompanied by a sharp drop in water levels. The recession of the marshes has forced fish to migrate to the river, where high salt and acid concentrations and low oxygen levels led to the death of thousands, creating a further environmental pollution hazard.

The Marsh fisherfolk are deprived of their livelihood, with food production halted, due to a severe drought in the area. However, no available environmental-impact studies cover households, but only note the Marsh population overall has reduced from nearly 500,000 people in the 1950s to as few as 20,000 by 2003 or count them only among other IDPs. HIC-HLRN and partners seek to fill the information gap by quantifying the impacts on 100 households to extrapolate the costs, losses and damage to the wider Marsh fisherfolk community of Maysān.

Budget

Cost Item	Unit Cost	Units	Cumulative
HLRN Project Management			
Labor:			
HLRN coordinator/mo.	$ 750	18	$ 13,500
HLRN systems manager/mo.	$ 700	18	$ 12,600
HLRN legal/program officer/mo.	$ 650	18	$ 11,700
Temp labor: software developer/mo.	$ 500	12	$ 6,000
Accountant/mo.	$ 150	18	$ 2,700
Fringe			$ 7,560
Program expenses:			
Publication (digital/web layout)	$ 800	1	$ 800
Local transport	$ 25	18	$ 450
Supplies & equipment	$ 600	1	$ 600
Translation/interpretation	$ 2,000	1	$ 2,000
Travel	$ 8,000	6	$ 32,300

Recurrent expenses:			
Legal/audit	$ 100	18	$ 1,800
Total			**$ 92,010**
Kigungu-Makusa CC CL&D Assessment			
Labor:			
Temp labor: field research coordinator/mo.	$ 750	6	$ 4,500
Temp labor: enumerator/mo. ♀	$ 300	2	$ 600
Temp labor: enumerator/mo. ♂	$ 300	2	$ 600
Program expenses:			
HH internet subscription (2 mos.)	$ 25	200	$ 5,000
Local transport	$ 25	12	$ 300
Meeting space	$ 1,350	4	$ 5,400
Total			**$ 16,400**
Ninewa CC CL&D Assessment			
Labor:			
Temp labor: field research coordinator/mo.	$ 750	6	$ 4,500
Temp labor: enumerator/mo. ♀	$ 300	2	$ 600
Temp labor: enumerator/mo. ♂	$ 300	2	$ 600
Program expenses:			
HH internet subscription (2 mos.)	$ 25	200	$ 5,000
Local transport	$ 25	12	$ 300
Meeting space	$ 1,150	4	$ 4,600
Total			**$ 15,600**
al-Maysān CC CL&D Assessment			
Labor:			
Temp labor: field research coordinator/mo.	$ 750	6	$ 4,500
Temp labor: enumerator/mo. ♀	$ 300	2	$ 600
Temp labor: enumerator/mo. ♂	$ 300	2	$ 600
Program expenses:			
HH internet subscription (2 mos.)	$ 25	200	$ 5,000
Local transport	$ 25	12	$ 300
Meeting space	$ 1,150	4	$ 4,600
Local transport	$ 25	12	$ 300
Total			**$ 15,900**
Overhead (10%)			**$ 13,991**
Grand total			**$ 153,901**