



Climate Change Management Department

Project Information

Project Title: *Support for the UN CC: Learn Project to Strengthen Learning and Skills Development to Address Climate Change in the Republic of Zimbabwe (2019-2020) project*

Introduction

With the advent of adverse impacts of climate change as evidenced by the high levels of vulnerabilities during the extensive flooding and droughts of the recent years which caused losses of lives, properties and destruction of infrastructure in Zimbabwe, it was evident that the issue of information gaps has led to weak preparedness. Vulnerable groups of the society including women, children and the disabled are not receiving adequate information on climate change and thus suffer more under extreme climate events. The number of casualties, loss of property, livestock and destruction of infrastructure like bridges and houses could have been avoided with adequate information and knowledge. Currently, the levels of mainstreaming of climate change at national, provincial, district and even household levels is very weak. With high levels of awareness through effective training and information dissemination, some of the impacts could have been averted. Hundreds of houses were destroyed in Masholaland Central, Matabeleland south and Masvingo provinces by unusual winds in the past three years. Trails of destruction by Cyclones Idai, Dineo and Eline, just to mention a few, remain to haunt the government and sub-national governments.

Project Objectives and Resources

Zimbabwe has been admitted into the United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership programme for southern Africa and received US\$100,000 for the development of a National Climate Change Learning Strategy. The US\$100,000 is a grant from the Swiss Development Cooperation through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The grant supports countries in the partnership to strengthen their individual and institutional capacities to address climate change. The programme response to calls from the Climate Change Convention (Article 6) and from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Article 12), and is being implemented in 16 countries including Zimbabwe.

The project to develop the learning strategy, which is part of the United Nations Climate Change Learn Programme for southern Africa, comes at an opportune time as the country has started working on the development of the National Adaptation Plan that will mainstream climate change in development planning. Mainstreaming of climate change in education is very key to ensure effective climate change implementation. The National Climate Change Response Strategy emphasizes the need to strengthen learning and awareness on climate change in Zimbabwe. A National Climate Change Learning Strategy offers a more systematic approach. It enables countries to take stock of existing initiatives, identify gaps and prioritize actions. Specific objectives of a Learning Strategy may include:

- i. Assessing existing human resource capacities and skills in key sectors identified in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or other relevant plans addressing climate change;
- ii. Prioritizing actions to enhance climate change learning and strengthen national education and training systems;
- iii. Ensuring that climate change learning helps to achieve national climate change objectives, for example as set out in the NDCs/NAPs;
- iv. Augmenting mobilization of resources for training and skills development from national budgets and external sources; and,
- v. Supporting the creation of a sustainable and gender-balanced human resource base able to address climate change in a sustainable manner.

The Climate Change Management Department will work with the Ministries responsible for education, the Environmental Management Agency, Development Reality Institute, Civil Society Organisations, among other institutions in the process of development of the Climate Change Learning Strategy. Climate change will be introduced in the learning materials for the Primary and Secondary education. The Climate Change Management Department will implement the Learning Strategy to strengthen learning and skills development on climate change. Awareness levels on climate change will be raised through the usage of education materials that will be developed.

Activities

Development of the Learning Strategy is in steps and involves a lot of activities. Under the project the country is expected to participate in regional experience sharing workshops and other forums focusing on climate change learning. Specific activities are as follows:

- Development of a Background Study Report – this is a chapter of the Strategy and it will focus on National Climate Change Priorities; Learning Needs and Delivery Capacities; and, Relevant Capacity Development Goals and Initiatives in Zimbabwe. The Background Report will take into account the following key aspects: Review of relevant national policies, laws, strategies, initiatives, and priorities on climate change learning; learning and skills development needs and priorities of specific groups of individuals to achieve organizational objectives related to climate change; Identification of vision and strategic priority areas for the Learning Strategy; and, Identification of key stakeholders and preparation of a stakeholder analysis report. The Strategy will be presented at a National Planning Workshop and it will be reviewed by MIET in order to provide input from education sector lens.
- Assessment of Learning Needs and Institutional Capacities to Deliver Learning- this is partly covered in the background study report. The results of this exercise will be presented at a Mid Term Workshop at which specific priority actions will be identified; an action plan will be developed, putting together all selected priority actions and implementation arrangements.
- Define the implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework- this will help in assessing whether set targets have been met and be able to monitor implementation of priority and identified actions
- Finalization and Launch of the National Climate Change Learning Strategy
- Initial implementation of some priority actions
- Project Evaluation