

Pathways to Climate-Resilient Economic Inclusion

A Framework for Integrating Climate Action in Economic Inclusion Programs

By Cecilia Costella, Timothy Clay, Manann Donoghoe, and Liz Giron

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Climate change disproportionately impacts people living in poverty, threatening to plunge more than 130 million more people into extreme poverty by the end of this decade.

In response, governments seek to align poverty alleviation efforts with climate adaptation and mitigation objectives, and are focusing on poor and vulnerable populations, particularly women. Efforts to address the climate and poverty nexus are still in their early stages, so there is a critical need to focus on a new climate-resilient development (CRD) approach.

Economic inclusion (EI) programs are well-positioned to support the climate resilience of poor people. These programs target the poorest, aiming to increase their incomes and assets while diversifying their livelihoods to enhance their resilience. Flexible and multi-sectoral in design, these programs can support climate-resilient development across three key program areas: adaptive safety nets, food and ecological systems, and green jobs and the green transition. Guided by a set of core principles laid out in the Climate-Resilient Economic Inclusion (CREI) framework (below) these programs have the potential to achieve significant outcomes, such as reducing climate vulnerability, supporting livelihood transformation, and avoiding maladaptation.

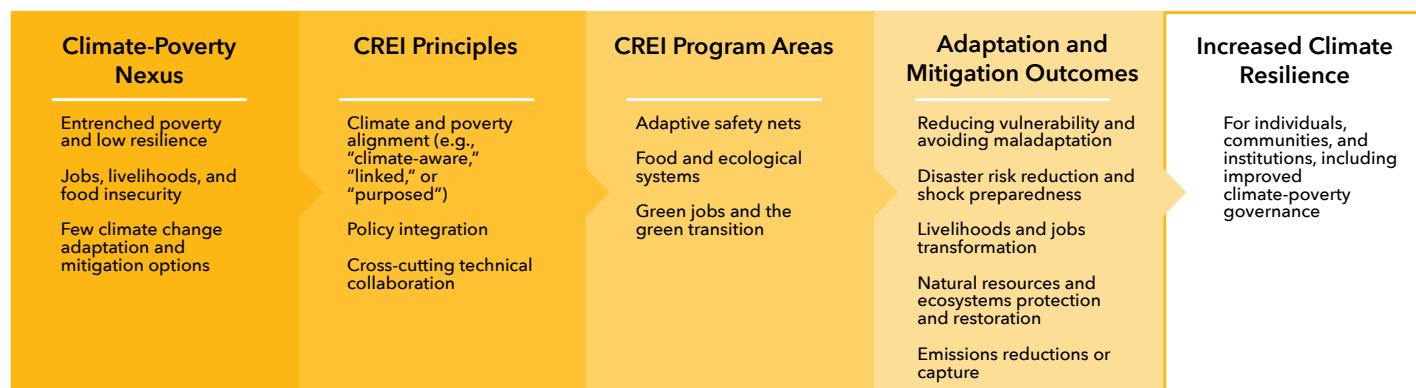
Several programs have emerged that demonstrate a strong alignment with the CREI framework across each of the three program areas. For instance, in Malawi, an adaptive safety net program enhances climate resilience through livelihood support, climate-smart public works, and emergency cash transfers. A food and ecological systems program in the Republic of Congo seeks to establish diverse, climate-resilient economic activities in sustainable agriculture, community forestry, non-timber forest products, and ecotourism. In addition, in Costa Rica, a green jobs and green transition project supports vulnerable fishery workers and their families to transition to sustainable fisheries management and to sectors that have a lighter impact on the environment.

Economic inclusion programs

(used interchangeably with *productive inclusion program*) are a bundle of coordinated, multidimensional interventions that support poor individuals, households, and communities to increase incomes and assets while working toward the long-term goal of economic self-sufficiency. Its design recognizes that the poorest and most vulnerable people face multiple constraints.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECONOMIC INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

The Climate-Resilient Economic Inclusion framework provides a set of principles and program areas that illustrate how economic inclusion programs can contribute to CRD.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

To drive a transformative shift toward climate-resilient economic inclusion, adjustments to program operations are essential, supported by a robust innovation and learning agenda, with scale-up made possible through sustainable financing. To realize the full potential of these programs for CRD, several issues are critical for policymakers and practitioners to consider:

1. **Address climate and poverty challenges:** Prioritize programs and interventions that directly target the climate-poverty nexus.
2. **Prioritize strategic integration:** Incorporate CREI principles and program areas strategically within program objectives, design features, and outcome measurements.
3. **Collaborate:** Support collaboration among relevant government departments, partners, and ministries, such as social protection, agriculture, and environment, to facilitate effective CREI integration at both policy and program levels. Forge partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and private entities, especially those with the capacity to address climate and poverty challenges.
4. **Lead inclusive planning:** Ensure the participation of marginalized and climate-vulnerable groups in the design, planning, and implementation of CREI initiatives. This approach fosters program ownership and long-term sustainability.
5. **Build a learning agenda:** Establish an evaluative learning agenda to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of climate-resilient EI.

In Practice

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