



## Comprehensive Resilience

### – a theoretical framework for climate mainstreaming

There is a clear disconnect between rhetoric and action when it comes to addressing climate change on a global level. The EU have announced a climate emergency and approved a new “Green Deal”, yet the announced targets are well-below what is necessary to prevent devastating climate impacts. There are several signs that we are running out of time to adequately address the crisis and that near-term effects are likely to be more severe than models have indicated. Further, almost all global commitments are limited to CO2 emissions and are disconnected from other planetary boundaries.

IM is not an environmental organisation, but the rapidly changing climate is already affecting our activities. These effects will continue to worsen until at least mid-century no matter what policies are implemented. Last year, as cyclone Idai ravaged Zimbabwe and Malawi IM’s partner organisations had to pause normal operations to assist with the relief efforts. The ongoing drought in the southern hemisphere is estimated to last for at least the next 60 years. A global food crisis is virtually guaranteed in the 2030s according to a study conducted by the University of Leeds.

As a result, entire countries will likely see their societies collapse under ever-increasing pressure in the coming decades. Furthermore, the climate crisis is systemic with significant social, economic, financial and political effects and feedbacks. Indeed, reactionary politics have made a come-back, in part based on climate denialism and geopolitical rivalries. IM’s regional offices and partners see these changes first-hand and have responded well with projects focusing on for example sustainable farming, combatting poverty, supporting human rights, protecting water and land, and strengthening the voices of affected people. However, they have struggled to see these efforts as part of addressing the climate emergency. Instead, when asked specifically about climate they mention individual efforts like recycling and installing low-energy lightbulbs. The climate threat is still abstract and hard to understand despite obvious effects.

In response, IM is designing a framework for mainstreaming focusing on preparing its regional offices and partner ecosystem for the inevitable effects based on current trajectories and making it easier to see the links between IMs current activities and the climate crisis: *Comprehensive Resilience*. It includes climate and environmental initiatives but also highlights the need for radical action in all aspects of development and society based on the best available research. The goal of *Comprehensive Resilience* is to ensure partners and rightsholders are as prepared as possible for systemic shocks; this includes important adaptive measures such as sustainable energy, biodiversity initiatives, resilient agriculture and sound land management but also encompasses a strong focus on justice, equality, democracy and local ownership, conflict sensitivity, fostering a systems approach, and supporting those worst affected, particularly Women and people in poverty. The work will be spearheaded by the regional offices who understand the local contexts best with close cooperation and support from the head office in Sweden. This means it will take a different shape in each region but with a common purpose and framework.



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