

# Climate change and local communities

Risks, vulnerabilities, responses

## IX Rome International Workshop RIW2024

Tuesday 16th July 2024 3:00 pm - 7:30 pm CEST  
[free online](#)

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# The Rome International Workshop RIW reaches its 9th edition

As every year, as a culmination of the online course "Environment and Climate in International Cooperation Projects," the trainees and their teacher offer the audience a conference event to reflect on the links between environment, climate change and international cooperation.

This year it will be held on **Tuesday, July 16 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.**, on an online platform.

The title of RIW2024 is:

## **"Climate change and local communities. Risks, vulnerabilities, responses."**

Across the planet, it is now an almost daily experience for any person to suffer hardship due to climate change-related phenomena. It is therefore necessary to know how to develop appropriate responses from the perspective of prevention but also of reaction to negative impacts of these phenomena. It is increasingly evident, moreover, that there are profound imbalances between different populations and territories, among those who suffer the impacts without having the tools to cope with them and those who hold these tools.

In the face of growing risks and exacerbating vulnerabilities, such as the exposure to the risk of suffering these impacts but also as the inability to react and recover, international cooperation must ask itself how to monitor these risks with the related fragilities and inequalities, as well as how to build a system of both preventive and remedial reactions, attentive to the weakest.

Experts from various corners of the world will dialogue together with the audience in 4 separate sessions:

Session 1 - Climate-related risks and risk factors 3:00 p.m.

Session 2 - Vulnerabilities 4:00 p.m.

Session 3 - Responses (1): prevention 5:00 p.m.

Session 4 - Responses (2): remediation/restoration 6:00 p.m.

VIS management, as always, is invited to contribute their qualified views in the summary session at 7:00 p.m.

**Registration at this link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdumvqT8oHtGbLhcN8TMpJT5XKARYMXWK>

## Session 1 - Climate-related risks and risk factors

3:00 pm

*The impacts of climate change depend on a large extent on risk factors, such as, for example, hydraulic risk. It is, therefore, opportune to be able to identify and recognize them in such a way as to preventively develop a response in the face of the emergency phenomenon. It assumes, in this regard, extreme relevance to mapping activities, aimed at intercepting and studying the type of risk and its extent. It is not enough, however, just to know how to outline them, it is also necessary to know how to communicate them, in such a way as to sensitize the individual population subject to the risk and also individuals towards the extreme phenomena, so as to facilitate allow the same to develop adequate self-defense behaviours. Knowing and communicating risks are decisive tools for ensuring the effective resilience of communities.*

- Introduction by Gabriella Petrina (VIS Advanced Studies School) – Massimo Zortea (University of Trento)
- *Knowledge and classification of risks*  
Andrea Margarita Lira Loarca (University of Genoa)
- *Global and local risk trends mapping*  
Matteo Giuliani (Politecnico of Milan, POLIMI)

Moderator: Francesca Pendugiu  
Rapporteur: Federica Ciavoni

## Session 2 - Vulnerabilities

4:00 pm

*Vulnerabilities related to climate change must be assessed under a broad spectrum of different profiles: e.g. geographical, geophysical, cultural, social, legal, institutional, infrastructural, etc. But first of all it is relevant to understand what is meant by vulnerability and what are the conditions under which we can talk about vulnerability. In addition, climate change contributes to worsening environmental degradation, which is in turn a powerful factor of vulnerability. Furthermore, climate change does not act equally and therefore there are areas, communities, social and/or economic categories that are more subject to negative impacts. This generates serious imbalances, from various points of view, which can be summarized in the concept of climate injustice.*

- *Objective aspects: types and characteristics of climate vulnerabilities*  
Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc (ADB PM Unit - Hue Vietnam)
- *Subjective aspects: climate-related vulnerable people*  
Alessandra Lucchese (Italian Ministry of Culture)

Moderator: Francesca Pendugiu  
Rapporteur: Federica Ciavoni

## Session 3 - Responses (1): prevention

5:00 pm

*After having analysed the risks and related vulnerabilities, we now need to reflect on the responses. First of all, those of a preventive nature. To develop effective preventive responses to phenomena linked to climate change and the resulting environmental degradation, it is necessary to develop adequate monitoring tools, in order to intercept and therefore act before the risk turns into concrete damage. This is also with a view to safeguarding the highest possible number of human lives. It is also good to work on behavioural aspects, so that the population is the first to know how to manage itself and develop attitudes of protection and collaboration also with experts in the sector.*

- *Working on risk monitoring and perception*  
Fabrizio Antonioli (IGAG CNR)
- *Working on structural and logistical aspects*  
Muyaka Kamamba (Blue and Green Water Guardians)
- *Working on behavioural aspects*  
Francesca Munerol (CIMA Foundation)

Moderator: Sandro Privitera

Rapporteur: Andrea My

## Session 4 – Responses (2): remediation/restoration

6:00 pm

*A second order of responses to risks and vulnerabilities in the face of climate change is resilience, i.e. the ability to restore conditions prior to harmful events. One of the most relevant challenges for international cooperation is to guarantee fair protection even in the most exposed areas of the globe, where the population often suffers more intensely from climate and environmental degradation because already exposed to previous violence (as for example armed conflicts) or in situation of displacement. In this regard, important challenges arose at local and international level: as strengthen preparedness, anticipatory action, and response in protection and solutions for displaced persons and host communities in situations of disasters because of forced displacement and improve the resilience of IDPs and host communities to risks.*

- *Including environmental and climate change strategy: experiences from international cooperation*  
Ana Maria Florez Muñoz (UNHCR Senior Environment Assistant)
- *Rebalancing: more support for the most vulnerable*  
Oriol Moya Canovas (UNHCR Associate Durable Solutions Officer)

Moderator: Sandro Privitera

Rapporteur: Elisa Marras

## Main findings and closing remarks

7:00 pm

- *Main findings from the four thematic sessions*  
Rapporteurs
- *Lessons learnt for VIS mission*  
Claudia Lombardi (VIS General Manager)
- *Closing remarks*  
Massimo Zortea (University of Trento)