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Recommendations

There is a risk that actions to achieve climate targets could increase inequality and undermine development priorities, if not managed with care. But this report finds that it is possible to act on climate in ways that create opportunities to build equitable and sustainable communities. Based on the findings of this report, our key recommendation is for governments to align policy actions across climate goals and the SDGs as a matter of urgency. National governments, working within those global frameworks, should take the lead to build coordinated action across sectors.

But national governments alone cannot achieve the scale of change required. They must also create an enabling environment that encourages business and civil society initiatives. It is vital that actions to achieve SDGs contribute to achieving climate targets and that actions to achieve climate targets are undertaken within the framework of the SDGs. By creating and building on such synergies, we believe progress can be made on achieving both the SDGs and climate goals by 2030.

National governments should:

Establish mechanisms, such as national commissions or cross-department working groups, to build policy coherence across national implementation of SDG and climate agendas. These mechanisms could include:

- Develop a national action plan that brings together strategies on SDGs and climate policies. To develop such a plan, governments should look at harmonising SDG-related Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) with climate-related National Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and disaster risk reduction strategies. This includes developing a joint set of national targets to ensure coherence across reporting and data collection mechanisms.
- Identify a set of joint policies with high potential within the national context that achieve both climate goals and SDGs. These can be identified through rapid assessments supported by the scientific community and civil society actors. Governments should consider subjecting proposed policies to a stress test to ensure that they fulfil guidelines for equity and justice.
- For those climate and SDG policies that cannot be closely aligned, governments should develop review processes to ensure that climate policies do not undermine SDGs, and aim for development policies that do not have a negative impact on climate and environmental policies.
- Consider including in Covid-Recovery Packages policies and measures that simultaneously advance both climate goals and SDGs, focusing particularly on reversing the unequal impacts of both Covid and climate change on the most vulnerable communities.
- Adequately finance actions to advance climate goals and SDGs, ensuring joint priorities are reflected in ministerial budgets. This includes establishing appropriate parliamentary processes to ensure adequate scrutiny and accountability regarding expenditure on actions to address joint climate-SDG priorities.
- Provide local level government bodies with the skills, resources and autonomy to implement national climate and SDG policy priorities in ways that meet the needs of local communities.
- Provide leadership, and an enabling policy environment, to private sector actors to help them develop practices and processes to reduce their environmental impacts across all relevant SDGs, including climate; and to uphold all social SDGs. This should include developing monitoring systems to ensure businesses adhere to national and international standards on human rights, labour laws and environmental protections.

To support national governments, the UN should:

- Establish a virtual platform and organise activities to share experience and learning between countries on policies and measures that deliver climate goals within the framework of the SDGs. This could include establishing an interagency group to evaluate and catalogue policies that advance both climate goals and SDGs, focusing on the priorities of low- and middle-income states.
- Establish mechanisms to streamline and coordinate reporting systems on the SDGs and climate goals to encourage greater coherence across the two frameworks in national reporting.

Businesses should:

Embrace business practices that advance both climate goals and SDGs. They can do so by:

- Measuring the social and environmental footprints of their products and supply chains, and then taking actions to reduce these footprints. Among other actions, they could, for example, set emission reduction targets and/or establish programmes to promote gender equality.
- Complying with climate and environmental protection standards while upholding human rights and labour rights. They should also adhere to national regulations and international frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Chapter 1
Introduction

Background to the Research Literature Used in this Report

The examples above and other interventions listed in Table 1 come mostly from the large research literature on "co-benefits" of climate policies. The term "co-benefits" is used in di□erent ways in di□erent studies. Here we use the definition from the IPCC: "The positive e□ects that a policy or measure aimed at one objective might have on other objectives, thereby increasing the total benefits for society or the environment."[43] While the concept of co-benefit is commonly used in research, the actual boundaries of co-benefits (what is influenced and by how much) are not easy to articulate.[44]

Table 2 presents a selection of policies and measures identified by governments in their NDCs as having potential co-benefits between climate goals and a range of SDGs. A small number of countries make direct links between climate policies and SDGs including Cambodia, Chile and Lebanon. Other countries, including Zambia, Jordan and the Marshall Islands, list specific sustainable development co-benefits of their climate policies, but do not explicitly link them to the relevant SDGs. Many countries, including Jamaica and Pakistan, consider the importance of synergies between climate and other sustainable development issues in general terms, mentioning the need to align the agendas without specifying actions that might do so. The Climate Watch database[53] identifies 41 countries that at least mention the term 'SDGs' in their NDCs. However, data from the NDC-SDG Connections database[54], which has identified present, implied or potential SDG connections in all NDCs submitted, reveals a wide range of engagement with SDGs across countries' NDCs. For instance, Zimbabwe's NDC contains climate actions relating to 13 of the SDGs, while Australia's contains climate actions relating to only three SDGs. The NDC-SDG Connections data also reveals low levels of engagement with the SDGs for gender equality, reduced inequalities, and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDGs 5, 10 and 16). This is discussed further in Chapter 3.

50-100 litres for an electric washing machine and 40 litres for handwashing clothes. By saving water, the Divya helps to achieve many targets under SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) including reducing the volume of untreated wastewater, achieving adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, and increasing water-use e□ciency. As it does not use electricity, it also avoids producing greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the course of a year, not only do these washing machines reduce water and energy used in clothes washing (SDGs 6, 12 and 13), but they also save a single household 750 hours of unpaid labour. The OECD[56] found that if the unpaid labour of women was reduced to three hours a

Health, environment, climate and gender goals are also addressed by projects in Colombia and India focusing on developing safe, low carbon, accessible transport options, as described by the FIA Foundation. Transport is responsible for almost a quarter of all energy-related carbon dioxide emissions,[57] and the number of vehicles is set to continue to grow over the coming decades. But creating streets that are safe for walking and cycling can reduce emissions from car use and improve health – through increased mobility, fewer road tra□c injuries (SDG 3.6) and improved air quality (SDG 11.6). Colombia and other countries are introducing intersecting policies that encourage active travel and the use of low-emission vehicles. These include improving rail infrastructure to reduce vehicle use on roads and setting standards for the commercialization of electric vehicles. However, care must also be taken to ensure that impacts on all groups are adequately considered. For instance, low-carbon mobility options may not be accessible to people with disabilities. Additionally, in some contexts, vulnerable groups may not feel safe using public transport. The NGO Safetipin in India has demonstrated that adolescent girls do not feel safe on public transport or walking in poorly-lit streets. The work of this organisation is a powerful example

The following are some of the important goals featured in the Paris Climate Agreement.

From Article 2:

a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels …

b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production

c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

From Article 4:

d) In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter … so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

From Article 7:

e) Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation

needed, hospitals and clinics may be unable to function because of power cuts, flooding, road closures and disruptions to supply chains of essential medicines. Policy coordination and integration, for instance through the development of Health National Adaptation Plans, can help governments respond effectively to such intersecting challenges.

These, and other NGOs who provided evidence to the APPG Inquiry stressed the importance of taking action to overcome government departmental silos and promote positive interactions between different sectors.

> "...national platforms should be established to support cross-sectoral coordination between ministries and departments..."[62]

They also highlighted the need for mechanisms to ensure that the knowledge, concerns and interests of excluded groups are taken into account when policies and measures are designed. Developing "intersectional, multidisciplinary and inclusionary approaches that value community knowledge and expertise"[63] could help make inequality issues more visible and help to uphold the SDG principle of leaving no-one behind.

So, how to achieve policy coherence? There are many ways to do so and examples from different countries are given in Tables 2 and 3. According to OECD[64], common elements of these approaches are: political commitment and leadership; long-term vision and planning horizons; policy integration; policy and institutional coordination; regional and local involvement; stakeholder engagement analysis; assessments of policy impacts; and monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The payoff of policy coherence with regards to climate and the SDGs is "efficiency" in two respects. First, it makes possible the multi-sectoral actions in Tables 1 and 2. Second, it avoids the duplication of efforts among departments and more efficiently utilises their limited

Summing Up

Table 1. Policies and measures from the research literature. Continued.

POLICY OR MEASURE	GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE & REFERENCES[72]		

POLICY OR MEASURE	GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE & REFERENCES[72]	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals) (References the same as in column 2 unless otherwise specified)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13) (References the same as in column 2 unless otherwise specified)
ENERGY			
Renewable energy pathway up to 2030 to de-carbonise the global economy & stay			

Table 2. Policies and measures from NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) reports of countries. Continued.

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND OTHER LAND USE (CONTINUED)			
Improved support services and capacity building for farmers Including training for farmers, extension sta and technical sta on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management and climate change planning.	Zambia	b, e	SDGs 1, 15, 17.17
Capacity building for [agricultural] producers on adapting to climate change Including 1 million producers receiving agro-climatic information; implementation of technical round-tables in high agricultural potential regions.	Colombia	b, e	SDGs 2, 12
Research to improve agricultural and aquaculture productivity and climate resilience	Cambodia	b, d, e, f	SDGs 2, 5, 14, 15
Establishment of Climate Resilient Agriculture Demonstration Centre	Saint Lucia	b, e	SDGs 1, 2, 12, 15
Implement strategies to reduce emissions from livestock sector Including development of silvo-pastoral systems; management of manure and other waste; restoration of grazing lands and others.	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 2, 12
Implement strategies to reduce emissions from cocoa, rice and co ee production Including development of agroforestry systems; improving e ciency of fertiliser use; improving irrigation use (rice) and post-harvest processing (co ee)	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDGs, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12Lan4.697 17.008Tj1

Table 2. Policies and measures from NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) reports of countries. Continued.

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND OTHER LAND USE (CONTINUED)			
Implement N_2O abatement strategies in fertiliser and production Including development of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 8, 9, 12
Implement National Restoration Plan of Action Restoration of 963,000 hectares of degraded forest ecosystems by 2030	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 5, 6, 11, 15
Implement Zero Deforestation Agreements with Meat, Dairy, Palm Oil, Cocoa and Timber supply chain actors Decrease the rate of deforestation by 50,000 hectares per year by 2030	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8,11, 15
ENERGY			
"Strategy for Just Transition" Decarbonise energy system, protect rights of most vulnerable, ensure active participation of citizens in design and			

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Table 2. Policies and measures from NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) reports of countries. Continued.

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)
ENERGY (CONTINUED)			
Reduce use of wood as fuel in rural households Through the provision of e□cient cookers and heaters	Colombia	a, d	SDGs 3, 7, 15
Sustainable charcoal production	Zambia	a, d	SDG 7.3, 15
Development and implementation of energy e□ciency guidelines across key sectors. Focus on electricity production, hydrocarbons and mining	Colombia	a, d	SDG 5, 7, 17
CITIES AND TRANSPORT			
Climate-responsive urban planning Including green spaces in new cities; land-use planning considering climate risks; climate-resilient low-cost housing	Cambodia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 15
Improving insulation standards New & existing housing. Aim to reduce demand for heating, and therefore reduced residential wood burning & emission of short-lived pollutants.	Chile	a,d	SDGs 3.9, 11.6
Establish and enforce energy standards in building codes	Cambodia	a, d	SDGs 5, 7, 8, 9, 11
Establish and implement disaster-resilient construction and infrastructure standards For public sector and community buildings including health and education facilities	Cambodia	a, b, d, e, f	SDGs 4, 5, 9

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)

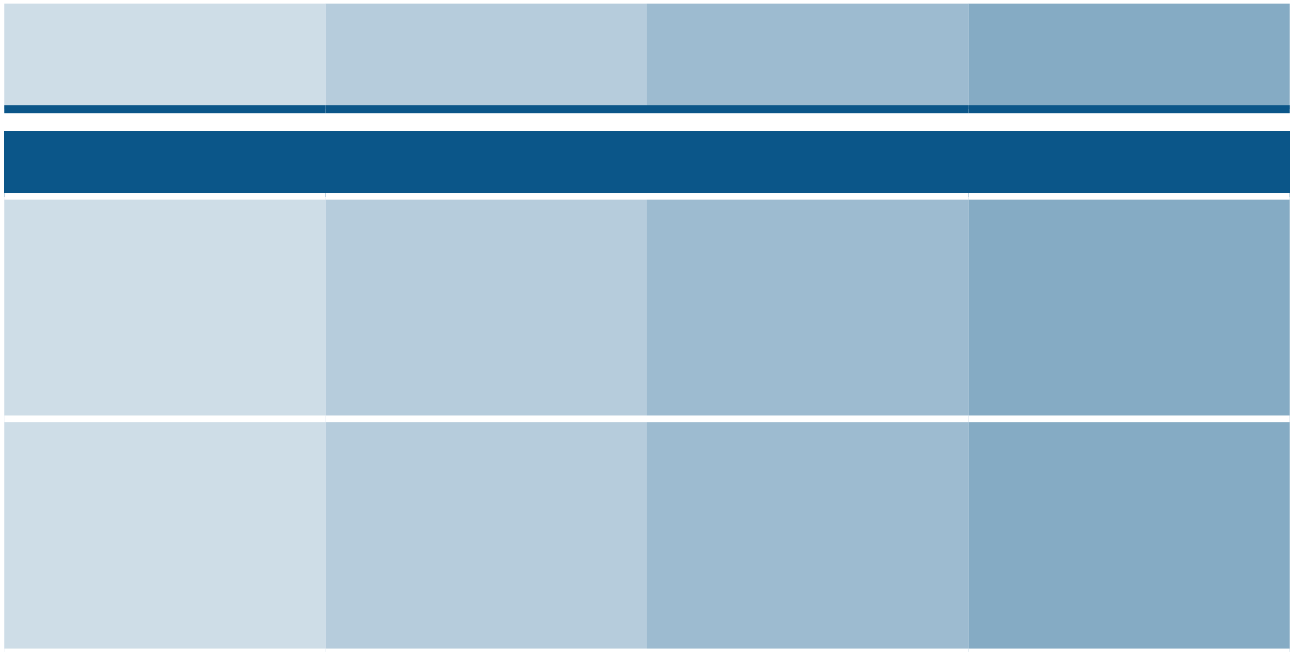
Table 2. Policies and measures from NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) reports of countries. Continued.

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)
CITIES AND TRANSPORT (CONTINUED)			
Establish regulatory and technical standards for the commercialisation and operation of electric vehicles Including a tari scheme to create financial incentives to build market demand for EV	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDG 11
Increase cycling, walking and public transport use in key cities Including through rehabilitation of rail infrastructure	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 8, 11
WATER			
Watershed Strategic Plans By 2030, for management of water resources in all hydrologic basins, incorporating climate adaptation.	Chile	b,e	SDGs 6.1, 6.5, 8.4, 12.2
Watershed Management Plans for three regions Including protection of catchment forests, improvement of water storage and water transfer infrastructure.	Zambia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 5, 6, 15
Watershed Management Plans for 24 watersheds and 135 river basins Prioritising watersheds supplying aqueducts in key municipalities	Colombia	a, b, d, e	SDG 6, 15
Inspection & registration of rural health systems To increase resilience of water supply to climate change and to ensure rural water quality drinking standards	Chile	b, e	SDG 6.1

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)
WATER (CONTINUED)			
Improve planning and delivery of rural water supply and sanitation to communities and health care facilities	**Cambodia**	**a, b, d, e**	**SDGs 3, 5, 6**
Increase wastewater treatment. **By 2030, reduce non-treated sewage 25%.**	**Chile**	**b, e** **But will increase emissions of GHG**	

Table 2. Policies and measures from NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) reports of countries. Continued.

POLICY OR MEASURE	COUNTRY	CLIMATE GOALS BENEFITTED (Refer to Box 1 for goals)	SDGS BENEFITTED (Goals or targets; in addition to SDG 13)
WATER (CONTINUED)			
Reduce vulnerability of coastal water supplies to climate change impacts Assess risks of sea-water intrusion into aquifers; increase protective capacity of coasts against storm surges and sea-level rises	Lebanon	b, e	SDGs 6, 9, 10, 14
Implement technologies for water saving, recycling and management For household, agriculture and industrial use; develop hydro-power facilities	Zambia	a, b, d, e	SDGs 2, 6, 7, 8, 9
INDUSTRY			



Chapter 3
Equitable and Just Policies

In addition, drought conditions make pour-flush toilets unusable, and this leads to more open defecation, increasing the likelihood of children becoming ill, and increasing women's risk of harassment and threats to their personal safety. Conversely, heavy rainfall and flooding contaminate drinking water. It also causes landslides and makes walking routes harder to navigate, placing an extra burden on pregnant women, elderly people and people with physical disabilities.

Just as the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated existing social and economic inequalities, climate impacts increase vulnerabilities and reduce the capacity of marginalised communities to recover. Because of this, a failure to address justice and equity issues[132] threatens to block achievement of any of the other SDGs.

Unjust and inequitable policies

Decisions about policies are always highly political, and contested, and policymakers have to balance competing interests and work within the limitations created by political power dynamics. Research on the implementation of the SDGs has shown that SDG10 (reduced inequalities) has not yet been given adequate attention in NDCs or in Voluntary National Reports (VNRs). So far, justice both within and between countries has not been central to considerations of how to achieve either the SDGs or the climate goals.

To address this, it is essential that SDGs for Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) underpin the design and delivery of implementation strategies for policies and measures such as those listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Based on a presentation by Lisa Hiwasaki at SSRP s international online Symposium Evidence for Action: Aligning the Climate and SDG Agendas July 20-22, 2021.

Scholars recognised early on, that dealing with climate change separately from the broader issue of sustainable development results in undesirable trade-o□s and takes away resources for important sustainability issues. Equality and equity are issues that have been left behind in the parallel global processes. A review of post-2015 literature that identifies concrete linkages and synergies between the SDGs and the Paris Agreement—whether through modelling or analysing the connections between the SDGs and NDCs—makes it clear that these connections focus on certain SDGs while others have been "left behind". While linkages with the Paris Agreement appear frequently for SDGs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, those SDGs that are considered more "social"—most notably, 1, 5, 10 and 16—do not.[138,139,140,141,142] Further, poverty, equity and inequality are identified as SDGs (1, 5, 10) where most trade-o□s were found within NDCs.[143]

The lack of processes to support the coherence of these agreements at the global level is detrimental to the integration of implementation of these policies at the national and sub-national levels.[144] S14.645lvyal"—mo28o52.396

We present below some examples of how the kinds of policies reviewed in Chapter 2 can lead to negative outcomes for some stakeholders.

The Great Green Wall in the Sahel[148]

The Great Green Wall (GGW) is planned as a 15 km wide wall of trees over a stretch of 8,000 km from Senegal to Djibouti. The project was approved by the African Union as a Pan-African project in 2007. It has received financial support from international bodies including the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, and received global support at the 2015 climate summit in Paris.

The GGW is an example of a major e□ort to achieve climate goals and other associated SDGs. It plans to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, create 10 million jobs, and sequester 250 million tons of carbon by 2030. So far, most of the tree planting has taken place in Senegal in areas of low rainfall where the local population consists primarily of pastoralists.

Pastoralism has, however, not been taken into account in the design, planning or implementation of the GGW. Instead, pastoral dependence on access to land has been neglected by the project, and pastoralism has been seen as an obstacle to a□orestation activities. This has undermined pastoralist livelihoods and increased their marginalisation.[149]

For instance, in the Ferlo region of Senegal, pastoralists have been blocked from grazing on newly enclosed a□orested areas. Additionally, tree plantations in these areas compete for water with livestock. Ironically, this means that the Great Green Wall results in natural resource scarcity for the local pastoralist population.

Traditional and elected leaders of local communes are also largely neglected by the project. They have not been consulted on issues such as the location of tree plantations.[150]

possible to design mitigation and adaptation projects that lead to positive outcomes for diverse communities. To do so it is necessary to consider differential impacts on diverse stakeholders, and to take care that costs and benefits are distributed fairly to reduce local inequalities.

This requires policymakers and project planners to be aware of the mechanisms through which project implementation may harm specific vulnerable groups. Included here is their own role in reinforcing existing unequal power dynamics and social harm,[158] for instance through channelling funding through local elites.

Policymakers therefore need to have a complete picture of all local stakeholders, including marginalised groups who may be hard to reach, and are often left out of decision-making processes. The first step is to recognise who might be vulnerable and why, thinking beyond widely acknowledged groups such as elderly or disabled people to groups who are less visible, such as those discriminated against because of class, caste or sexuality.[159]

Additionally, it is important to understand not just who is vulnerable, but what their priorities and interests are. For instance, actions to increase income that undermine other livelihood strategies may increase, not reduce, poverty.[160] To address this, effective and meaningful community participation is vital.

Considering who benefits and who bears the costs of any intervention includes thinking about impacts on different sectors and in different locations. As the examples above show, an intervention in one community may displace problems to another community, or have unintended consequences on another sector. This is also true across scales, from local to national and international (and vice versa).

This displacement issue can be addressed by building policy coherence and ensuring good governance, as discussed in Chapter Two. Although the SDGs were conceived as a holistic interlinked framework, in practice it is necessary to take explicit action to ensure that measures to achieve one goal do not have adverse impacts on other goals. This is particularly relevant for the SDGs, whose global ambition can only be achieved through local level implementation.

[118] Health Target 3.9 because of air pollution reduction, especially reduction of particulate matter/black carbon and ozone precursors; Health Target 3.6 because of reduction in tra□c injuries.

[119] Houghton, A. and Castillo-Salgado, C. (2019). Associations between green building design strategies and community health resilience to extreme heat events: a systematic review of the evidence. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 16(4), 663.

[120] Yang, X., Teng, F. and Wang, G. (2013). Incorporating environmental co-benefits into climate policies: A regional study of the cement industry in China. Applied Energy, 112, 1446-1453.

[121] Kanter et al. (2019). op. cit.

[122] McElwee et al. (2020). op. cit.

[123] IPCC (2019). op. cit.

[124] McElwee et al. (2020). op. cit.

[125] IPCC (2019). op. cit.

[126] OECD (2019). op. cit.

[127] UN (2019b). Global conference on strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN DESA.

[128] IPCC (2018). Summary for Policymakers. In: V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.) Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and e orts to eradicate poverty. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

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[131] Based on The Leprosy Mission England and Wales' submission to the APPG Inquiry, May 2021

[132] Megaw, T., Kohlitz, J. and Chong, J. (2020). Socially-inclusive responses to climate change impacts on WASH: case study in Manggarai, Flores, Indonesia. Prepared for Plan International Indonesia by ISF-UTS. Available at: https://multisitestaticcontent.uts.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/57/2021/01/25083436/Case-Study-CCRIW-Indonesia-2.pdf

[133] We use 'equity' to refer to fairness in outcomes, ensuring that all groups have the resources and access to decision-making to lead to equal outcomes. This can require additional support for disadvantaged groups. We use 'justice' to refer to the dismantling of systemic societal barriers facing some groups or communities, which lead them to needing additional support to achieve equity.

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