

## Need

Combating climate change is an essential part of ending the conditions which allow world hunger to persist. Changes in global temperatures and resulting environmental disasters such as floods and droughts affect everything from a community's food and water security to their health and social stability. The Hunger Project (THP) is committed to understanding communities' vulnerabilities in this domain and ensuring that they can overcome them in order to make sustainable progress towards healthy, self-reliant lives.

By assessing measures of climate change resilience, The Hunger Project aims to assist rural communities in understanding their vulnerabilities and track trends pertaining to climate change across the African continent. This new Climate Index, based on analysis of data already included in the Household Evaluation and Snapshot Surveys, will help shed light on how The Hunger Project can most effectively increase its impact by supporting the communities where we work in to better prepare for the future effects of climate change and combat those already being felt.

The Index will accompany the Self-Reliance score and measure the holistic nature of climate resilient communities. This data will help support communities in making their own decisions of where to focus in order to better respond to the effects of climate change, and will allow THP to understand how climate change is affecting our communities and where we should focus our own efforts.

## Background

The Hunger Project's Climate Index is based on available material taken largely from key indicators in a broader index which was created by the Committee On Sustainable Assessment (COSA). THP has narrowed down COSA's 114 indicators ( 11 Key, 27 Core, 76 Library) to 12 indicators, each of which represent a category (global theme) from the COSA index adapted to the rural communities with whom THP works. These indicators reflect The Hunger Project's work and strategies in these communities while following the scientific methodology of the original COSA index. In providing this analysis, The Hunger Project aims not only to utilize existing data in a more strategic manner, but to be better able to assist communities in their efforts against the effects of climate change.

The indicators can be organized in 12 categories, which give an together provide an overview of a community’s resilience:

- Shock and Risk
- Community and Institutional Environment
- Living and Working Conditions
- Basic Human Rights And Equity
- Learning and Innovation
- Services and Infrastructure
- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Resource Management
- Climate Change
- Producer Livelihood

## Proposal

Upon analysis of the index, The Hunger Project decided to investigate if it was possible to collect indicators from all global themes as to ensure a well rounded measurement of the holistic nature of climate resilience and collecting the complete COSA measurement of 114 indicators was not feasible. In each global theme, the key indicator, which are the most critical, was chosen unless data collection was deemed impossible with current resources. When a Key indicator was not available, a Core indicator was chosen. In three cases, a Library indicator was chosen as no Key or Core indicators were available for that global theme of Biodiversity, Water and Climate Change. For each global theme, the recommended COSA indicator was chosen or a proxy indicator was selected for information that THP has the ability to/or is already collecting.

We have proposed to collect 12 indicators across 12 global themes. They are made of 5 Key, 4 core and 3 library.

The following are the proposed indicators:

GLOBAL THEME	TYPE	METRIC
Shock and risk	CORE	Percent of community members who agree or strongly agree that their communities have the ability to adapt and absorb shocks
Community and institutional environment	KEY	Presence of action plan at epicenter
Living and working conditions	CORE	Progress out of Poverty Index score (PPI). Percentage of households with revenue under national poverty line.

Basic human rights and equity	KEY	Women Dietary Diversity: Average number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age
Learning and innovation	CORE	Percent of households implementing risk-reducing practices/actions to improve resilience
Services and infrastructure	KEY	Operational health unit in epicenter radius
Soil	KEY	Percentage of households implementing one or more practices for soil conservation.
Water	KEY	Percentage of households implementing at least one, two or more water-saving practices.
Biodiversity	LIBRARY	Percentage of households cultivating more than one type of crop
Resource management	CORE	Percentage of households using integrated pest management
Climate Change	LIBRARY	Percentage of households attending environmental trainings in the last year.
Producer livelihood	KEY	Proportion of rural households with non-farm businesses

The proposed indicators look to reflect our work and strategy, while still following scientific methodologies from COSA on The Climate Index. THP works in rural communities, and COSA's framework has a larger scope, and is also proposed as an Index so adaptation was needed.

The Objectives of THP's Climate points will be to measure the overall resilience of our communities, this will allow communities to understand how close or far they are to being more resilient and better adapting to climate. The Climate points will serve as a reference and will not be considered for graduation.