
Student challenge: HEI

Integrating principles of Sustainable Bioeconomy to a community-based approach
ensuring inclusive and sustainable social prosperity

Company: WeWorld

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Schedule:

29/10/2021 – 15/12/2021

Project background

The community-based approach (CPA) is an action-oriented approach and methodology implemented in protracted and complex crises to examine the characteristics of geographical areas and sectors with the highest protection risks. The protection risk comprises the threat, vulnerabilities, and capacities of an affected population. The CPA aims at co-developing Protection Response Plans, together with this affected population and local constituencies, to reduce their vulnerabilities and increase their capacities. The CPA refers to an innovative people-centred approach for community engagement and empowerment. It is currently applied throughout the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and the Sahel regions.

This approach comprises a context-specific process of assessment and analysis to determine immediate patterns of protection risk and analyses the degree of the community's resilience against such protection risks. This process coincides with programme and project cycles for local and international actors.

A right-based analysis is used as an entry point to elaborate local protection strategies. These strategies are used as a programming framework for the definition of needs-based responses. Through the CPA, the community self-analyses its needs and vulnerabilities in support of identifying actions to reduce the exposure to the protection risks. Communities are, therefore, the owners of the process and the holders of its outputs: the Community Protection Profiles and Protection Response Plans.

The design of this short-to-long-term integrated protection intervention, based on the results of the Protection Analysis and translated as Protection Response Plans, is built on the Protection Egg Framework of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Tasks

The students will be tasked with contextualizing and adapting certain components of the CPA to three different contexts (Kenya, Zambia, and Uganda) through the integration of two basic principles of sustainable bioeconomy: (1) Food Security and (2) Inclusive economic and social prosperity. WeWorld will provide the students with the necessary material, including the methodological overview of the CPA and the written case study.

The students can work in small groups (4 to 5 students), or at an individual level. It is recommended that students integrate inter-country groups to work at a regional level and gain experience from different backgrounds and contexts.

The expected research outcomes for this project are the following:

1. Contextualization of the modules of Food Security and Livelihood of a Multi-Sector Questionnaire of the CPA to the three countries of the project: Kenya, Zambia, and Uganda.
2. Creation of a specific module on Disaster Risk Reduction for the integration into the Multi-Sector Questionnaire of the CPA.
3. Proposal of a qualitative data collection tool to further understand the causes, consequences and coping mechanisms of the risks identified in the Food Security, Livelihood and Disaster Risk Reduction Modules.
4. Proposal of a strategic response plan with specific actions to reduce the vulnerabilities of communities in the sectors of Food Security, Livelihood and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The students are expected to integrate their knowledge and previous experience in the field and in the context to propose innovative solutions to the protection risks identified in these sectors.

Knowledge, skills, and competencies to be acquired by the end of the study module in Sustainable Bioeconomy (expected Learning Outcomes)

1. Integration of sustainable bioeconomy principles into global assessment methodologies.
2. Creation of community-based assessments.
3. Research in the humanitarian and development field.
4. Quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
5. Strategy development for sustainable and inclusive communities.

Mentoring plan

The project will kick off through an online seminar hosted by the University of Pavia, with Protection Specialists from WeWorld as the keynote speakers. The CPA will be the centre of the first session, where students will be introduced to what is the CPA, its main components, the operationalization of protection and Humanitarian-Development Nexus principles, and the creation of integrated Protection Response Plans with communities. The seminar will present the case study to the students, in which a scenario will be thoroughly explained, based on real-life experiences from the field, to support students with the integration of the lesson.

After this initial seminar, the supervisors will offer the opportunity for technical follow-up, clarification, inquiries via mail, as well as recommendations for a mid-term appraisal (via video-call) and consultation to support in the progress of the report.

Before the final oral presentation, the supervisors will provide technical feedback on the written report for students to integrate the feedback on the writing of the final report.

The seminar is scheduled for October 29, 2021, from 10:00 to 14:00 (Italian time)

Supervisor(s)

Pedro Arriaza – WeWorld – pedro.arriaza@gvc.weworld.it

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Evaluation plan

The result of the student challenge should be presented as a written report and a 15-minute oral presentation, to be evaluated by the supervisors.

Information on the structure of the report and oral presentation will be provided during the seminar.

The criteria for evaluation of the results will include:

- Clear outline of the written report.
- Relevance of the results.
- Consistency of methodology.
- Clear and concise oral presentation of results.

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