Adaptation: Community-based from Start to Finish
Tools to Support Participatory Approaches

Adaptation Fund Climate Readiness Seminar
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Overview

• Why community-based?

• Tools to support participatory approaches
  • Climate Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment
  • Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection & Learning

• Tools to support participatory approaches
Climate change challenges us all to learn to live with on-going change and to make decisions in the context of increased uncertainty and risk.

Differential vulnerability and capacity of different groups to respond to the impacts of climate change requires tailored and equitable responses.

Adaptation initiatives should empower people affected by climate change:
- to play a central role in the planning and decision making processes affecting their lives
- to understand and analyse how the climate impacts lives, make informed and forward-looking decisions and constantly adjust their strategies in response to new and uncertain circumstances

Effective climate change adaptation is a process that avoids pre-determined solutions and brings decisions under control by those affected.

The context: “Community-based adaptation”

Community-based adaptation and M&E

CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE

LOCAL ADAPTIVE & ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION

CLIMATE-RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

ADDRESSING UNDERLYING CAUSES OF VULNERABILITY

RISK AND UNCERTAINTY

INFLUENCING ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
What does global adaptation work need to get better at?

Review of global adaptation portfolios by major agencies (SEA Change 2014):

- **Adaptation programme design** needs to be better grounded in coherent analysis of how a dynamic climate change context interacts with socioeconomic vulnerability.

- **Need for a better understanding of context in adaptation M&E** – in particular understanding and tracking what influences a population’s vulnerability and resilience and how.

- **Adaptation endeavours are stronger** when M&E provides hooks for real-time learning and isn’t just for reporting purposes.

- **Resilience** has no fixed standards and cannot be effectively promoted by checklists.
Effective adaptation, grounded in CBA principles

Our tools for adaptation are premised on the principles that...

- managing uncertainty and ongoing change requires a learning-by-doing approach
- we are still learning what successful adaptation looks like

They help us ensure that...

- CBA is strongly rooted in participatory, process-oriented principles which also need to be reflected in how progress on adaptation is defined and measured
- CBA needs to provide a platform/ process for local stakeholders to articulate their own needs, priorities and vision of change
- people affected by climate change benefit from being involved in monitoring and evaluation processes by gaining
  - an understanding of their own adaptation processes,
  - skills in observing change, and
  - capacity to analyse the impact of shift and changes in the climate on their own lives
CVCA and PMERL: Tools for the adaptation project cycle

ANALYSIS
initial stage where you learn about the context (collecting information, carrying out a CVCA, etc.)

EVALUATION
information on project progress is compared with baseline information and used to modify the plan if necessary

PMERL PROCESS
builds on analysis, is initiated at design/planning stage, is carried out throughout implementation and feeds into evaluation and analysis

DESIGN/PLANNING
stage where the findings from analysis are used to set objectives and develop the project plan

IMPLEMENTATION
stage where project resources are used to achieve the project objectives
What is the CVCA for? www.careclimatechange.org/tools

**Aims/objectives**

- Ensuring adaptation initiatives are grounded in an understanding of local and differentiated impacts of climate change
- Community level and -led analysis of climate vulnerability
- Bringing together locally held knowledge and climate info services
- Reflective community process
- Collaborative learning and dialogue between different actors

**Primary target audience**

- Project managers, field staff
- Local partners
- Communities

**The CVCA does NOT:**

- quantify results
- provide results that can be generalised to national/regional levels
What PMERL is for

- Developing participatory strategies that help different groups affected by, or involved in, a CBA initiative (project, action plan or similar) to assess their effectiveness in achieving objectives.

- Developing locally specific indicators to measure success in community-based adaptation.

- Monitoring changes in the local situation to inform CBA planning and use findings to improve project or wider community action planning.

The revised 2014 PMERL manual

- A shorter manual that helps build a participatory process to support project M&E, as well as reflection and learning on adaptation actions in a project context.

- Clarification on the scope and limitations of PMERL:
  - PMERL does not replace a formal M&E process;
  - PMERL focuses on bringing the “P” into “MERL”

- Purpose before tools: more emphasis on the process, less emphasis on tools.
What is PMERL for? cont.

Use of the information generated

1. Informing and revising community adaptation planning processes

2. Revising/ adjusting project planning

3. Informing/ complementing the M&E system

4. Evidence to inform broader learning, strategies and policy

→ Feedback loops are important
→ Budget line flexibility has been key for real-time learning and use of feedback
Four Key Principles for Successful PM&E

• **Participation** means opening up the design of the M&E system to include those most directly affected.

• **Negotiation** is an important dimension among initiative managers, implementers and community members to agree on what will be monitored and evaluated.

• **Equity**: Ensure that negotiated outcomes do not merely reflect the views of the most powerful institutions, but in particular the marginalised groups or individuals.

• **Flexibility** and learning from the process is essential as the number, role and skills of stakeholders and other factors change over time.
• Garissa background: ASAL, Somali, Muslim, traditionally nomadic pastoralists; currently pastoralist and agro-pastoralist

• **Gender sensitive** process: opportunities for complementarities and increased interaction among men and women

• **Vulnerability** to climate change is influenced by multiple, interconnected factors - analysis must go beyond exposure and sensitivity to climate impacts

• **Informed, adaptive and forward-looking decision-making** is central to adaptive capacity - including on livelihoods diversification
• ‘Software’ is as important as ‘hardware’-
  • facilitating access to information and the development of the skills and knowledge needed for adaptation,
  • working with institutions and policies to ensure an enabling environment for local adaptation efforts

• **Access to climate information** is critical for adaptive management of livelihoods - PSPs

• **Appropriate governance** is essential for sustainable management of resources and risk management at community level.
Thank you!

www.careclimatechange.org/tools

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Additional Resources on CBA, Gender and Vulnerability Assessments

Adaptation Publications: http://www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation

Community-based Adaptation:

CVCA:

PMERL:

Kenya: