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Policy Questions

Given the diverse set of indicators that currently exist to measure and evaluate adaptation, how can communities, countries and development and adaptation agencies build on a common understanding of success in achieving the climate resilience?

Acknowledging the fact that adaptation strategies are designed against the backdrop of identified concerns of climate change for the respective region, the indicators for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of such strategies vary from community to community and region to region owing to their different vulnerabilities. The impacts of climate change might broadly be similar for all the regions in a state, but not largely for a nation or a group of nations, which makes it difficult to establish similar indicators at national or international level. Albeit this could be achieved to a certain extent at state level since most of the countries' overall goal and objective to combat climate change is pre-set under their action plan on climate change like is the case for India. India's National Action plan on Climate Change states "Ministries with lead responsibility for each of the missions are directed to develop objectives, implementation strategies, timelines, and monitoring and evaluation criteria, to be submitted to the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change". The States under the ambit of their State Action Plan on Climate Change have therefore underlined a basic framework for M&E in line with the NAPCC. This facilitates the designing of indicators based on the guiding principles, which enables common understanding of diverse indicators among states. On a similar note a framework could be laid which covers certain core indicators as "common" while allowing some indicators to be region specific. This will not only allow for common understanding but also account for unintended impacts of adaptation strategies.

How can a framework be created that links individual assessments with national level assessments to broaden the focus from the means of achieving outcomes (individual interventions) to the desired end result (countries' becoming less vulnerable and having more adaptive capacity)?

A wider lesson from the M&E of development interventions can be applied to M&E of adaptation to climate change. It is important to examine the contribution of specific interventions to the overall country strategy. In the context of adaptation, this would mean complementing individual project and programme evaluations with overall assessments of trends in the country's vulnerability to climate change. A framework for linking individual assessments with national level assessments should be laid down in a way which could help in combining country-level monitoring and project level M&E with the objective to highlight the following issues:

- If the overall level of activities is sufficient vis-à-vis the goals set under the National Action Plan of the country
- If the pre assessed vulnerability is reducing
- If the composition of clim How can results from M&E be reported and disseminated so as to ensure that they are fed back into the respective adaptation process but also to allow for lessons learned and good practices identified to be shared with the wider community of adaptation planners and practitioners?

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M&E is an important tool to identify good practices and single out less effective approaches, contributing to evidence based decision making.

Reporting M&E

M&E should be reported in a generic structure of a typical report for an evaluation, study or major monitoring activity (i.e. survey, major review). The report is generally a basic detailed product, with high fundamental importance owing to the sections like references and majorly for record and learning purposes. Hard fact remains that such reports are mostly not fully read or reviewed by large audiences. Most of the organisations prefer M&E reports for a specific interest area. Therefore M&E report should primarily cover all the important information in brief. Apart from regular report format which includes Acknowledgements, Executive Summary, Limitations, Lessons learnt and Recommendations, it should broadly touch upon the following:

- Context and purpose of the evaluation
 - Problem statement and concise statement(s) of what the evaluation/study is expected to measure and deliver
- Ethics and independence
 - Role of the evaluator (Independent external evaluator or facilitator of a participatory process)
 - Management and protection of the role
 - Listing the ethical issues and the ways opted to manage these issues
- Methodology
 - Design, including framework for analysis, data collection, sampling, and limitations
 - Important take a ways for decision makers
- Appendix
 - Itinerary and persons interviewed
 - Detailed methodology to explain how variables were measured, justify frameworks, etc., guiding data analysis, and identify threats to the validity of the data and the analysis
 - Data collection instruments
 - Bibliography

Disseminating M&E reports

A “focussed message” with a “wider outreach” for the relevant stakeholders in a timely manner, could be an approach followed for disseminating the M&E reports. The dissemination strategy could be made effective by realizing the desired outcome out of the dissemination which could either be a getting community’s feedback or creating better ownership by a specific group of stakeholders. In addition, it is important to owe a clear understanding of the findings and conclusions, lessons, recommendations for the pre identified targeted audiences. To ensure an effective dissemination, timely sharing of information with the stakeholders should be practiced. The selection of a suitable medium and an appropriate format (e.g. which kind of report?) must be done against the purpose, the audience, the resources, the expected results of the message which is to be conveyed.