

Oxfam is working to help people adapt to the effects of climate change. Our experience as a development and emergency relief organization is instrumental in assisting communities to build their resilience to more frequent and extreme droughts, floods and weather events. We do this through new technologies, diversifying livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and by helping people organize themselves to get help and determine solutions.

Our experience shows that climate change represents a major global threat to the livelihoods of millions and of these the most vulnerable are the poor living in developing countries who have the least capacity and support to adapt. Climate Change magnifies existing inequalities and injustice at all levels (e.g. the global emission question, inequality as a generic driver of poverty and gender inequality). Climate change, as a multi-dimensional issue requires a holistic approach and based on our experience (in poverty alleviation and adaptation) it must be centered around the people most affected and it must be rights based, that is, it must include the role of local and national governments and it must be gender equitable. Hence to address climate change we must also address the basic drivers of poverty (inequality and injustice) but in ways that are based on an analysis of predicted CC impacts and risks (that is use of scientific and traditional knowledge) using approaches that are people-centered, rights-based and gender equitable.

Find out more about our climate change work at <https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/climate-change>

For further information:

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**1. 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 climate resilience?**

The logic and assumptions of Oxfam's monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to climate change is based on improving adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability to climate change shocks and the impacts of increased disasters. Our approach to developing climate resilience and measuring its success takes a rights-based approach i.e. prioritizes community and stakeholder participation, gender empowerment and deliver our climate initiatives through a One Program approach. Our measure of achieving climate resilience is guided at program, strategy, advocacy and campaign levels by the following principles:

- The rights of men and women are realised and their wellbeing despite shocks, stresses and uncertainty, is improved
- Structural causes of inequality that underlie the vulnerability and disproportionate risk and uncertainty are addressed
- Gender empowerment forms the cornerstone of initiatives to addresses women's vulnerabilities

Within Oxfam's Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, adaptation is measured as successful when vulnerable communities have skills and knowledge to implement on-ground actions to reduce the impact of disasters and climate change.

International adaptation MEL frameworks must take a rights-based approach to climate resilience. This is to ensure that the structural causes of the inequality faced by the poor and marginalised people (especially vulnerable groups and women), and which underlie vulnerability, are addressed. Rather than the mere symptoms of the impacts of stresses and shocks. In this process, measurements that consider the accountability of decision-makers to take action on climate change by implementing pro-poor climate change policies and instruments are equally important.

**2. 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)?**

The promotion/sustainability of individual adaptation actions makes sense only if i.) they find broader acceptance and application by local communities; ii.) such practices increase an understanding of the hazard and climate change context; iii.) instill flexibility and responsiveness; and iv.) draw on and build diverse sources of knowledge. Linking (of household, community and national) adaptation actions require a mix of creating an enabling environment, and using flexible institutional frameworks and measurement instruments. Adaptation MEL frameworks must acknowledge the many dynamic processes that influence vulnerability i.e. encourage end results on community resilience. Our community-based adaptation programs use resilience frameworks that are grounded within the local context. Such common, agreed frameworks help to provide consistency across cross-scale initiatives, guide MEL analysis and national planning, support iterative program improvements undertaken throughout a project's life, guide the selection of activities and program indicators, and guide data collection. For example in Vanuatu such a resilience framework is

assisting our community-based partners in the collection of consistent and aggregated information, which in the longer term will allow for better measurement of adaptation outcomes (see response from [Ms. Shirley Laban](#), Oxfam Australia).

**3. 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?**

To a large extent this depends on flexible and systematic policy approaches that promote proactive adaptation measures (e.g. community-based measures, incentive creation, consideration of local knowledge, and processes to devolve management of climatic hazards etc). Such policy measures should ideally involve collaboration, knowledge management, public consultation, community empowerment, monitoring and oversight, participatory decision-making, feedback mechanisms, adaptive learning and co-management of natural resources.

Oxfam field-level experiences show that participatory and inclusive arrangements are necessary for reporting, disseminating, linking and sharing adaptation results across a diverse set of stakeholders. A key emphasis should be on mutual learning and institutional capacity-building. That can be achieved via:

- *Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement:* For example, in Philippines and Vietnam, we are using collaborative approaches with the goal of linking community disaster and climate actions/priorities to national planning processes. This is to promote community approaches and influence respective sectoral policies, plans and budgets.
- *Reflective learning approaches:* In Timor Leste, partner access to relevant digital tools and resources is encouraging the sharing of lessons and promotion of integrated MEL. Capacity and effectiveness of longer-term MEL approaches can only be supported through learning from local context specific situations using a variety of e-tools. Such learning and evidence can then be shared externally to influence the policy and practice of others, and contribute to the broader climate change debate.
- *Targeted capacity building:* In Vanuatu using a consortium approach to community-based adaptation, we are helping develop local capacity in collaboration, communication, vulnerability/adaptation assessments, consensus-building, and governmental coordination. Such a cross-collaborative way of working within the existing government structure is necessary to promote adaptation practices, foster long-term support from the government and mobilise resources necessary for community resilience to climate change.

## **Further resources available:**

### ***Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change: Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis***

The toolkit assembles a set of tools and describes the process for conducting a Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis (PCVA) of disaster and climate change risks at the community level. This PCVA toolkit is targeted primarily for community-based staff members of development agencies such as Oxfam and national agencies. It follows an integrated approach to assessing disaster and climate change risk, and using this information to support communities to develop community action plans.

### ***Towards Resilience: A guide to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation***

ECB: <http://www.ecbproject.org/downloads/ECB-toward-resilience-Disaster-risk-reduction-Climate-Change-Adaptation-guide-english.pdf>

An introductory resource developed through the Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB) for staff of development and humanitarian organizations working with people whose lives and rights are threatened by disasters and climate change. The guide provides essential introductory information, principles of effective practice, guidelines for action in a range of sectors and settings, case studies and links to useful tools and resources, for the application of an integrated, rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

### ***No Accident: Resilience And The Inequality Of Risk***

Oxfam: <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/no-accident-resilience-and-the-inequality-of-risk-292353>

We need a new approach to risk and poverty reduction. Major external risks, such as climate change and food price volatility, are increasing faster than attempts to reduce them. Many risks are dumped on poor people, and women face an overwhelming burden. In many places of recurrent crises, the response of governments and the international aid sector is not good enough. A new focus on building resilience offers real promise to allow the poorest women and men to thrive despite shocks, stresses, and uncertainty – but only if risk is more equally shared globally and across societies.