

Input on the three guiding questions from Rebecca Nicodemus, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**Question 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?**

While the specific challenges that populations, countries, and regions face in reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity are dependent on the local context, USAID will support activities that, at the higher level, address common challenges: (1) improve access to science and analysis for decision-making, (2) establish effective governance systems, and (3) identify and disseminate actions that increase resilience to climate change. To this end, we can share relevant materials, including results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation products including evaluation agendas. The results framework is graphical representations of the development hypothesis and includes the goal, objectives, intermediate results, and indicators. It would be interesting to compare higher level objectives and goals across practitioners to determine if there is a common understanding of success. Then, how success may be measured can be discussed. Although common indicators for measuring success is most likely not practical, it may be worthwhile to explore a common framework or to at least consider standardizing units.

Question 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)?

There are two approaches in answering this question. First, since USAID supports adaptation activities that span from the individual to the national level, monitoring and evaluation also spans multiple levels (individual, community, regional, and national). For instance, as part of USAID's adaptation results framework, activities will not only test the effectiveness of key adaptive strategies, which may occur on the individual or group level, but also work to communicate information on and reduce barriers to the widespread adoption of effective adaptation strategies. Performance monitoring may include monitoring the uptake of key strategies and practices by partner country national and sub-national governments and populations.

Secondly, it will be worthwhile to encourage and support monitoring and evaluation as part of implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). NAPs are linked to country priorities and provide an entry point for country ownership. M&E of the implementation of NAPs can provide a framework for linking assessments of individual interventions to progress on achieving national goals while decreasing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity.

Question 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?

Perhaps a first step is determining topic-oriented communities of practice. Also, when designing projects or programs it is important to plan and budget for monitoring, evaluation, and learning from the beginning.

USAID aims to evaluate past climate change programs and other relevant examples of integrated programming to glean lessons that will inform its next generation of programming. These lessons will be incorporated into revised guidance, and shared with Agency staff and the broader development community. This exchange occurs through various mechanisms including sharing at smaller communities of practice or working groups; domestic and international conferences or workshops; or supporting platforms for exchange of experiences. As appropriate, lessons learned can be translated into regional, country-specific, and sectoral best practices or case studies that will assist in the implementation of future climate change adaptation and integration efforts.