

MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE

Mizan Khan

&

Tim Foy

Four issues to consider

- Climate change and variability – how they impact upon poverty?
- What is mainstreaming and why is it the most effective approach to adaptation?
- What does mainstreaming imply for NAPA preparation?
- Are there other implications of mainstreaming?

Climate and poverty

- Impact of climate change and variability site and group specific but clearly:
 - influences poor people's livelihood opportunities
 - introduces additional risk to precarious lives & livelihoods
 - Risk & vulnerability characteristics of poor people's lives – but climate represents a new significant challenge which threatens development and poverty eradication efforts

Coping with climate – the value of mainstreaming

- Measure of successful adaptation = extent to which climatic threats to poverty eradication and development reduced
- Best achieved by building capacity/ resilience into livelihoods to cope with the risk and the poor's vulnerability to it

But now two buts

But 1- what's special about building resilience to climatic factors ?

But - isn't building that resilience just "good development"

- building that capacity will work for more than one risk that poor people face
- coping and resilience associated with levels of development – effective functioning economies; sound natural resource management; good infrastructure and social capital all facilitate coping
- does it makes sense therefore to think of adaptation outside of broader development processes – is climate unique – probably not

But 2 – but if becomes just a part of development how do you ensure that climatic issues are not ignored

Q – If accept climatic factors present serious additional risks to poverty eradication, how do we avoid them being simply ignored by policy makers and planners who may not recognise it as an issue

A – by ensuring that policy makers do not see climate as an environment issue but as a development issue which will impact on (their) objectives of broader development processes

A quick recap

Most effective way to address climate issues through integration of responses (adaptation) into general development process. Should help ensure:

- Climate issues are taken seriously and appear on the big screen – policy level responses
- Adaptation approaches consistent with broader development objectives and don't inadvertently reduce effectiveness of development processes
- National development goals do not inadvertently increase risk to climatic factors

Sounds good but it won't happen on its own !

Q - The logic is fine, but how can it be done – particularly if “policy or decision makers” indifferent to the issue

A - Starting point is to rethink way we look at and think about climate, poverty and development

- must make it relevant and accessible to others

A different way of thinking about climate, development and poverty

- Start with poverty and look at how climate issues affect it – don't start with climate
- Define climate impacts in areas (goals or objectives) and time frames relevant to policy/decision makers
- Suggests initial focus on climatic variability. Long term climate change hard to sell – but there is a logical compatibility between the two
- Pitch climate issues realistically in the context of other development priorities
- Focus on the good development no regrets approaches to adaptation

To the more practical side of things

Mainstreaming adaptation hard – we have little experience of doing this or of mainstreaming environment more generally

- but we have learnt some lessons which might prove helpful to NAPA preparation

Top tips for mainstreaming - 1

- Get into the right process asap – for LDCs probably the PRSP or equivalent
- Be prepared to lose individual climate change identity in exchange for joining in the big game (history of stand alone action plans is dismal)
- Aim for impact not completeness – partial but effective beats perfect but pointless. Identify and focus on a manageable number of big issues

Top Tips for mainstreaming – 2

- Identify the key levers to maximise effective adaptation – probably policies and government expenditure decisions not a list of projects
- Demonstrate complementarity with development process - not least by emphasising no regrets, no cost approaches where these exist
- Build links with decision makers and identify a champion – raise awareness of the issue and its relevance to other's work

Top tips for mainstreaming - 3

Build a multi-disciplinary multi-institutional team - not least to build a broad constituency

- Look carefully at leadership of process and the best host institution for the NAPA in terms of influence and impact
- Be participatory - but balance it against the costs and time of running these processes
- Be flexible – understand the priorities of others and the relative nature of climate issues - do not see processes as competitive

Some final provocative thoughts

Controversial perhaps, but in the interests of stimulating discussions. Following the ideas of mainstreaming through:

- For most countries first objective should probably be adaptation to existing climatic variability
- majority of financing for adaptation should be provided from national budgets appropriately supported by donors
- Key role of donors is to support transition to mainstreaming climate concerns into development processes