



National Adaption Plans: understanding international & national climate policies and designing youth inclusive adaptation projects

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Module 6

Engaging in climate adaptation policies: local, national, and international

Learning Objectives



By the end of this module, participants will...

- Have a broad understanding of international climate governance and the main United Nations climate change policy processes
- Know about the main climate adaptation policy frameworks at global, national and local levels.
- Understand the importance of youth engagement in climate adaptation policy processes and know more about how to engage in these processes.
- Understand global climate finance mechanisms and some of the challenges in accessing climate funds for adaptation.





The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) is a United Nations plan of action for People, Planet and Prosperity (famously known as the 3 Ps).
- It has 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and 169 targets.
- All SDGs are deeply interconnected with SDG 13 on climate action. If climate change is not stopped, the entire Agenda is threatened.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



International climate governance and adaptation policies



UNFCCC

- key international policy framework for climate change.

Paris Agreement

- Established in 2015.
- The first climate deal that establishes common obligations for all countries.
- Aims to keep the increase in global temperatures well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, while making efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C.
- To drive up ambition, the Paris Agreement requires each country to submit an updated [Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\)](#) every five years.



An **NDC** is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

Starting in 2023, and then five years thereafter, governments will take stock of their actions to assess the collective progress towards achieving the goals of the Agreement. This regular “**global stocktake**” informs the next round of NDCs.

International climate governance and adaptation policies



COP (Conference of the Parties)

- Takes place every year.
- The supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC.
- All 198 Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP.
- Countries use the COP to review the implementation of the UNFCCC and other legal instruments the COP adopts, such as the Paris Agreement.



📷 Marlene Achoki from CARE International at Cop29 in Azerbaijan. Photograph: UNFCCC

Main climate adaptation policy frameworks at global level



- The IPCC's [Third Assessment Report](#) in 2001 highlighted that mitigation alone would not be enough to respond to climate change, and that adaptation was essential.
- In 2010, Parties emphasized that adaptation must be addressed with the same priority as mitigation and developed several mechanisms for ensuring this. In 2015, The global Goal on Adaptation was established aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change,
- The framework will be finalized this year in Belem



Madagascar El Niño. Source: CARE

Main climate adaptation policy frameworks at national level



NDCs

NAPAs

NAPs

National Communications

NDCs

- Paris Agreement requires each country to submit an updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** every five years.
- An NDC is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.
- It is important to know when these submissions will take place. They are an opportunity for you to input on NDCs about what you want to see in national and international policies (see Figure 5 for the NDC timeline). To learn more about your country's NDC submissions visit the United Nations' <https://unfccc.int/ndc-3.0>
- NDCs 3.0 need to be progressive and more ambitious than current NDCs and may be the last opportunity to put the world on track with a global emission trajectory in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5C goal.

Main climate adaptation policy frameworks at national level



NAPAs

- A [National Adaptation Programme of Action \(NAPA\)](#) is a process for identifying priority actions to respond to urgent adaptation needs – those for which further delay could increase vulnerability in a particular country. NAPAs are specifically for LDCs

NAPs

- LDCs developed (or are developing) [National Adaptation Plans \(NAPs\)](#). These strategic documents complement the NAPAs.
- They identify a country's medium- and long-term adaptation priorities, and the strategies for addressing and tracking them.

Main climate adaptation policy frameworks at national level



National Communications

- the UNFCCC requires a group of countries known as [Non-Annex 1 countries](#) (most of which are developing countries) to submit reports (known as National Communications) periodically.
- These reports highlight development priorities, objectives and national circumstances, including ongoing action and needs for meeting adaptation and mitigation goals and the objectives of the Convention.
- Countries are expected to submit these reports within three years of joining the Convention, and every four years thereafter.

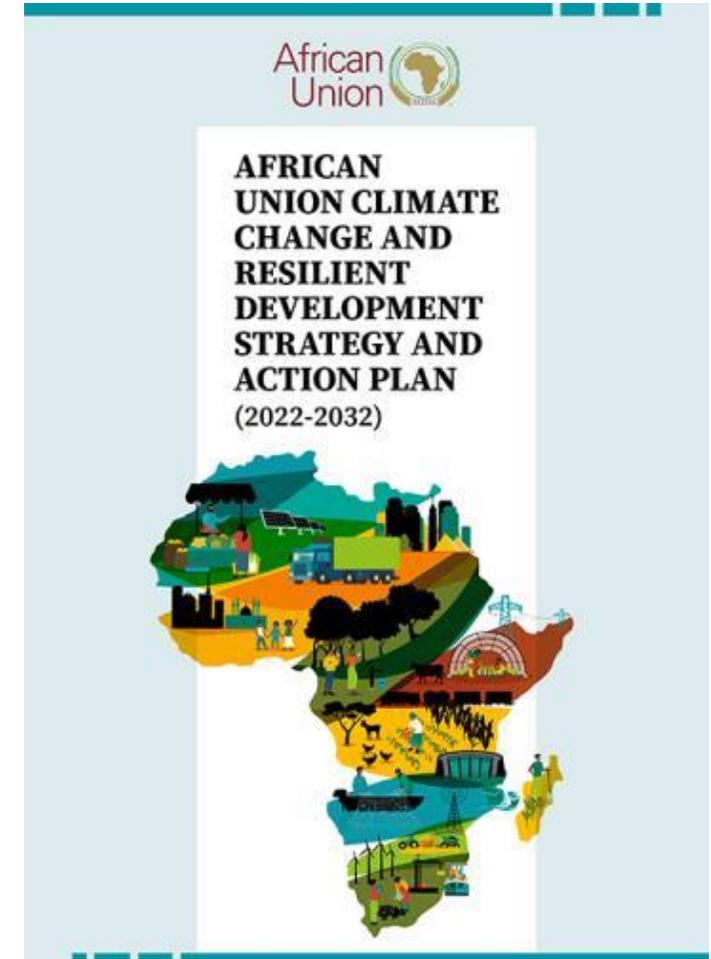
Most African countries have submitted at least one National Communication.

Continental and regional climate adaptation strategies



Examples:

- The African Union has a continental climate change strategy, the [Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan \(2022–2032\)](#).
- The [East Africa Community \(EAC\)](#) has a climate change policy, a climate change strategy and a climate change master plan.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted its first [Regional Climate Strategy](#) in 2022 to inform long-term climate action.¹
- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has a [Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan](#), which outlines coordinated regional and national actions to respond to the impacts of climate change.
- The EU -strategy-on-adaptation-to-climate-change [EU-strategy-on -adaptation](#) in 2021



Local-level climate adaptation policies



- Climate change adaptation is context specific, so local action matters.
- In Kenya, and many other countries, Local climate adaptation policies developed, are a good example of a local-level adaptation policy.



© Georgina Cranston / CARE Denmark

How can young people engage in climate adaptation policy processes?



UNFCCC

- Collaborate with other youth organizations that participate in the UNFCCC
- Join YOUNGO
- Join the Global Center on Adaptation's [Youth Adaptation Network](#)
- Write an email to your country's UNFCCC Head of Delegation asking to join COP as a youth representative.



How can young people engage in climate adaptation policy processes?



Read up on the **Paris Agreement** and familiarize yourself with it.

NDCs

- **Participate in NDC processes** if these are established in your country. If these processes are not in place, **advocate for creating mechanisms to involve young people in the process** of formulating, implementing and updating NDCs.
- Conduct **youth consultations on NDCs** to provide recommendations for improvements to decision makers and increase ambition.
- **Monitor the results of the different parts of the NDC process.** This will help you identify challenges in the process that you may help to improve.

How can young people engage in climate adaptation policy processes?



NAPs

- Engage with decision makers to ensure young people are integrated as part of the NAP.
- Share simplified information on NAPs with other young people to promote engagement and increase the pool of young climate advocates who can monitor how NAPs are implemented.

How can young people engage in climate adaptation policy processes?



Regional and local level adaptation policies

- Urge your country to **adopt a climate change strategy**. If it already exists, find out how it is being implemented.
- Advocate for **integrating young people into regional and local** climate adaptation strategies.
- **Train future generations** on climate advocacy and climate adaptation issues so that knowledge is passed from generation to generation, and the movement continues to grow.
- Organize or join an **awareness-raising campaign** to encourage public understanding of climate change, its effects, and the actions young people can take to mitigate its anticipated impacts.
- **Write a lobby letter and/or meet with the Minister of Climate Change** (if your government has one) and/or your member of parliament who sits on the parliamentary committee on climate change.
- Start a **petition** for a climate change adaptation policy issue.

How can young people engage in climate adaptation policy processes?



Stay informed and share what you know

- **Monitor your country's climate reports.** Your government may publish these online. Reading these reports will provide you with information to help develop climate action in your community and country.
- **Read your country's adaptation communication.** You can find all submitted National Communications at the [UNFCCC's website](#).
- **Share information about climate change and adaptation actions** on your social networks.
- Start a social media campaign using **#Youth4Adaptation**.

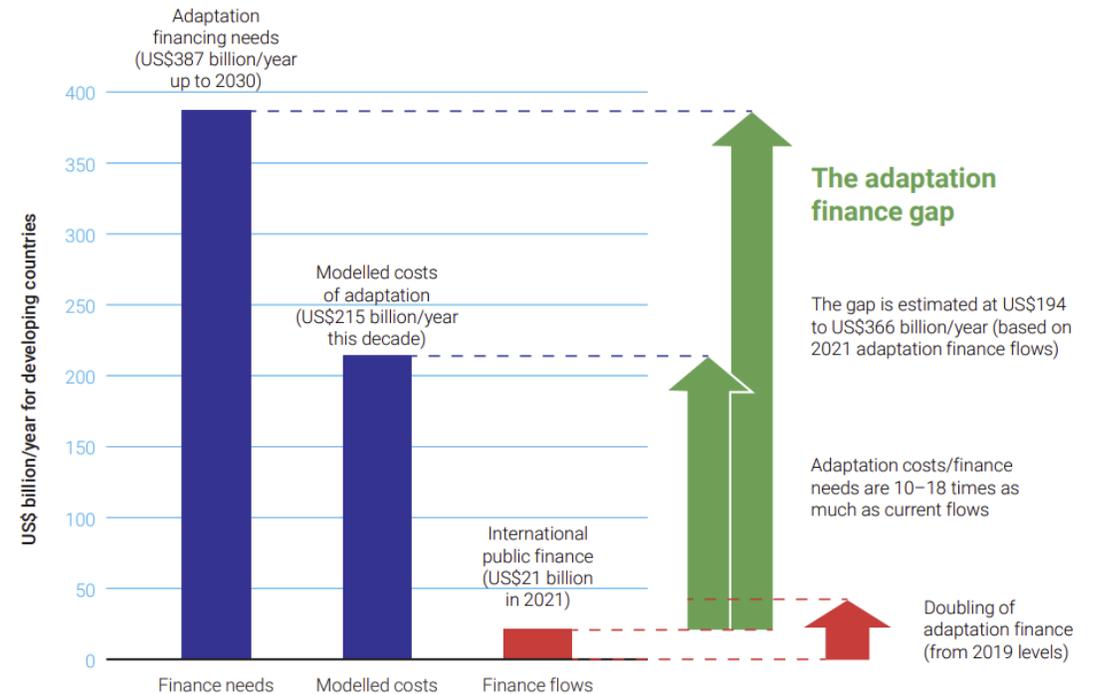




Adaptation Finance Gap

- The adaptation finance gap is estimated at US\$215 billion to US\$387 billion/year upto 2030 (UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2023).
- The UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement **call for developed countries to provide financial assistance to developing countries for climate action, adaptation and mitigation.**
- International adaptation finance to developing countries continues to rise. It reached USD 28.6 billion in 2020, representing a 34% share of total climate finance to developing countries in 2020 (UNEP 2022). However, there is still a huge **financing gap.**
- **UNEP estimates that for developing countries, the Adaptation costs/finance needs are 10–18 times as much as current flows**

Figure ES.4 Comparison of adaptation financing needs, modelled costs and international public adaptation finance flows in developing countries



Adaptation Funds



The **Green Climate Fund** is the world's largest climate fund and a critical element of the Paris Agreement. It supports developing countries in realizing their NDC ambitions. Its mandate is to deliver a 50:50 balance between the money it allocates for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**



Challenges in accessing climate funds

Climate finance is not balanced as agreed under the Paris Agreement, with adaptation finance making up just 20% of overall climate finance flows (IIED 2021).

Development finance itself is scarce. Even after the new Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

adaptation finance is generally lower than mitigation finance. While both are crucial for addressing climate change, mitigation efforts (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) have historically received a larger share of climate finance. For example, GCF indicated mitigation finance accounted for 60% of climate finance, while adaptation accounted for 27%.

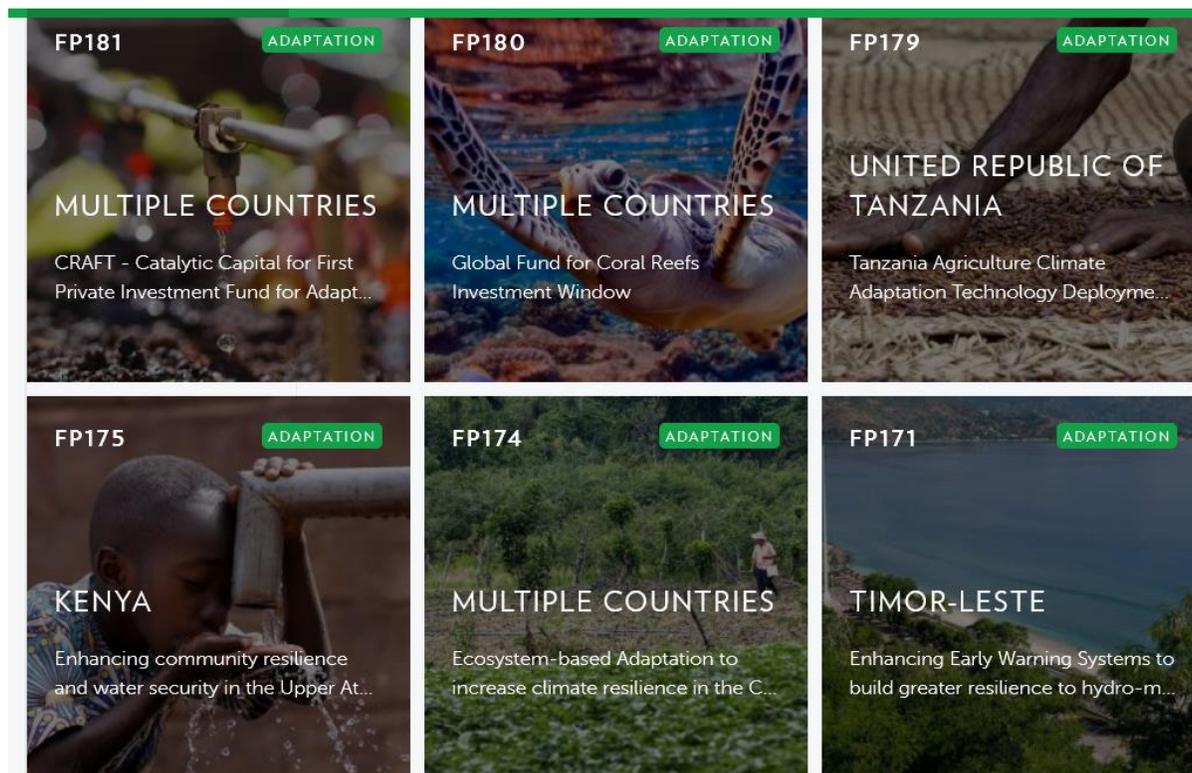


Civil society action at COP. Credit: UNFCCC/Kiara Worth.



How young people can engage with climate finance

- Create a **networking platform** for youth engaged in climate action and help them organize **community projects and participate in designing climate change adaptation projects** at the national, sub-national and local levels.
- **Track how climate change adaptation finance is spent** in your country.
 - ❖ The [Climate Funds Update website](#) is a useful tool for tracking climate finance, as is the [GCF](#).



Project portfolio screenshot from the GCF Website



How young people can engage with climate finance

- ❖ If climate finance is being channeled through a non-governmental organization, you may be able to see how the money is being used if the organization is willing to share its data or has it freely available.
- You can be a key player in advocacy around key climate finance issues. For example, you may **advocate** to ensure that programs that seek funding from the GCF and other international climate finance mechanisms are designed to **include the needs of vulnerable groups**, such as women, girls and children.



Women working with CARE Zimbabwe to build climate resilience © Ngonidzashe Munemo/Charmaine Chitate

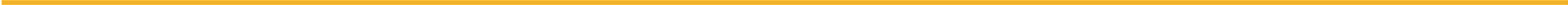




Photo © CARE Denmark

Module 8

Designing Your Adaptation Action

Key Climate Terms



Risk

Hazard

Shocks

Stresses



RISK

The probability of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable or capable conditions

(Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, no date)



HAZARD



A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon and/or human activity, which may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation

(Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, no date)



Early warning dissemination in Bangladesh © Jannatul Mawa/CARE Bangladesh

SHOCKS



Short-term events or disruptions that have negative effects on people's well-being, assets, livelihoods, safety, or their ability to withstand future shocks. Examples include sudden extreme weather events or disruptions, such as flash floods, cyclones and heatwaves.

(CARE 2019)



2020 Madagascar Flood. Source: CARE Images

STRESSES



Continuous, long-term trends or pressures that negatively impact people's lives and the systems they live in. Examples include prolonged droughts, erratic weather patterns, rising sea levels, increased desertification and natural resource degradation

(CARE 2019)



2017 Somalia Drought. Source: CARE Images

Designing Adaptation Options Process



Mapping Climate Vulnerabilities

CVCA



Development of a Community Adaptation Action Plan

CAAP



Assess Adaptation Actions

**AGP
Check list**



Prioritize adaptation actions for implementation

**Feasibility
Check list
(based on your
project)**



Set Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning Framework

**MEL
framework**



Mapping Climate Vulnerabilities

To map vulnerabilities, you can:

- Interview key people and run workshops and dialogues with community stakeholders.
- Do research into climate change vulnerability at broader levels.
- The CVCA combines scientific and indigenous knowledge and ensures that all voices are heard.



CVCA workshop in Laos
© Benjamin Pomerleau

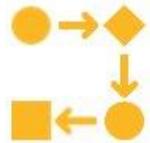
The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) helps you map climate vulnerabilities and capacities in a community, paying particular attention to **gender, ecosystem and governance issues**.

It allows you to **prioritize adaptation actions** based on the **needs of those most vulnerable** to climate change.



Mapping Climate Vulnerabilities

What is the CVCA?



- The CVCA process is the **starting point for identifying the actions that favor** adaptation/resilience – at the heart of locally led-adaptation



- This process is a **participative research process** combined with additional scientific research to gain an accurate understanding of vulnerability to climate change and of existing resilience capacities at the local level. It has 7 key steps.



- **Gender is the transversal axis** (along with ecosystems and governance).



Mapping Climate Vulnerabilities

What is the CVCA?

Three main uses



Adaptation plan

Has influence on the implementation time, the involvement of stakeholders, the need for extra tools for planning.



Advocacy

May need to reinforce analysis on the barrier parts as well as using additional tools on cartography of the actors.



Project proposition

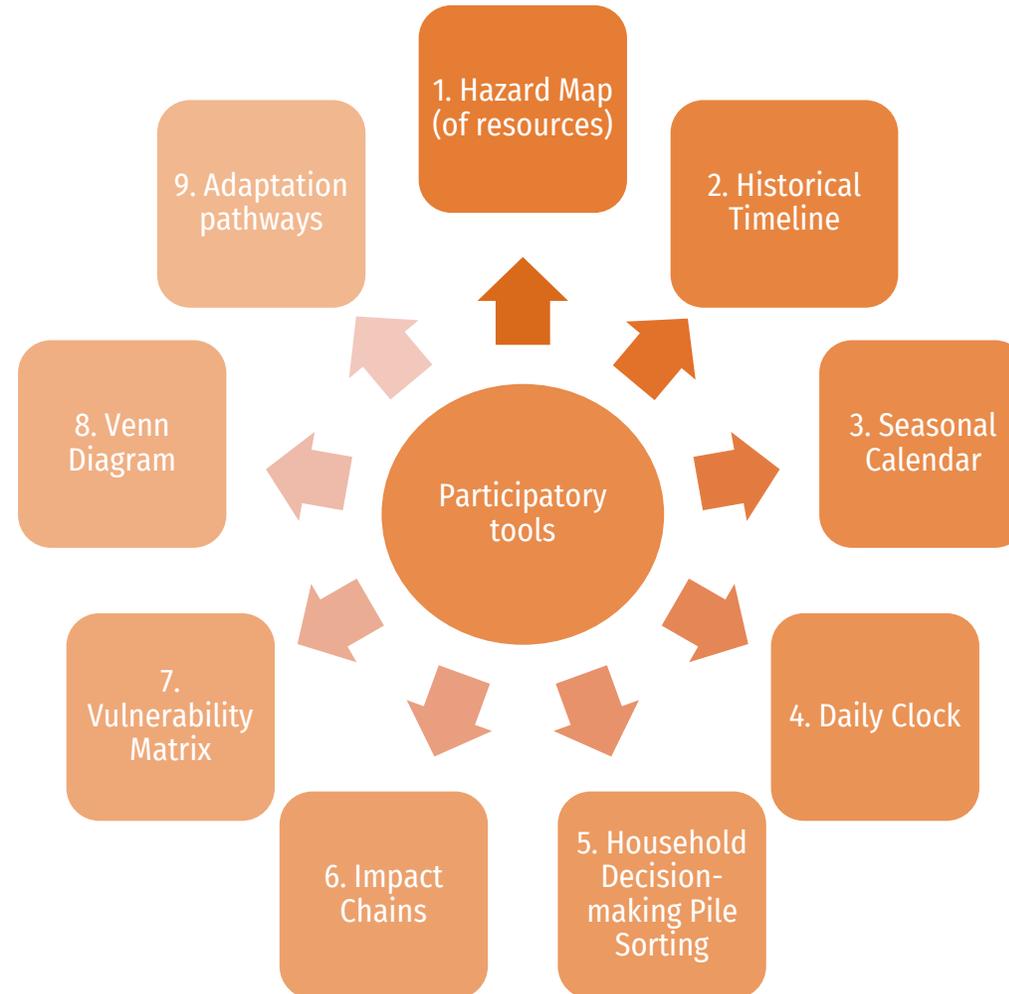
Collection and analysis can be quicker in order to inform writing and then finalize.





Mapping Climate Vulnerabilities

CVCA Tools



Mapping Climate Risks and Impacts



How?

- **Hazard Map** - allows you to become familiar with the community and how it is perceived by different groups. During the exercise, community members identify important livelihood resources along with hazards affecting the community (climate-related and other)

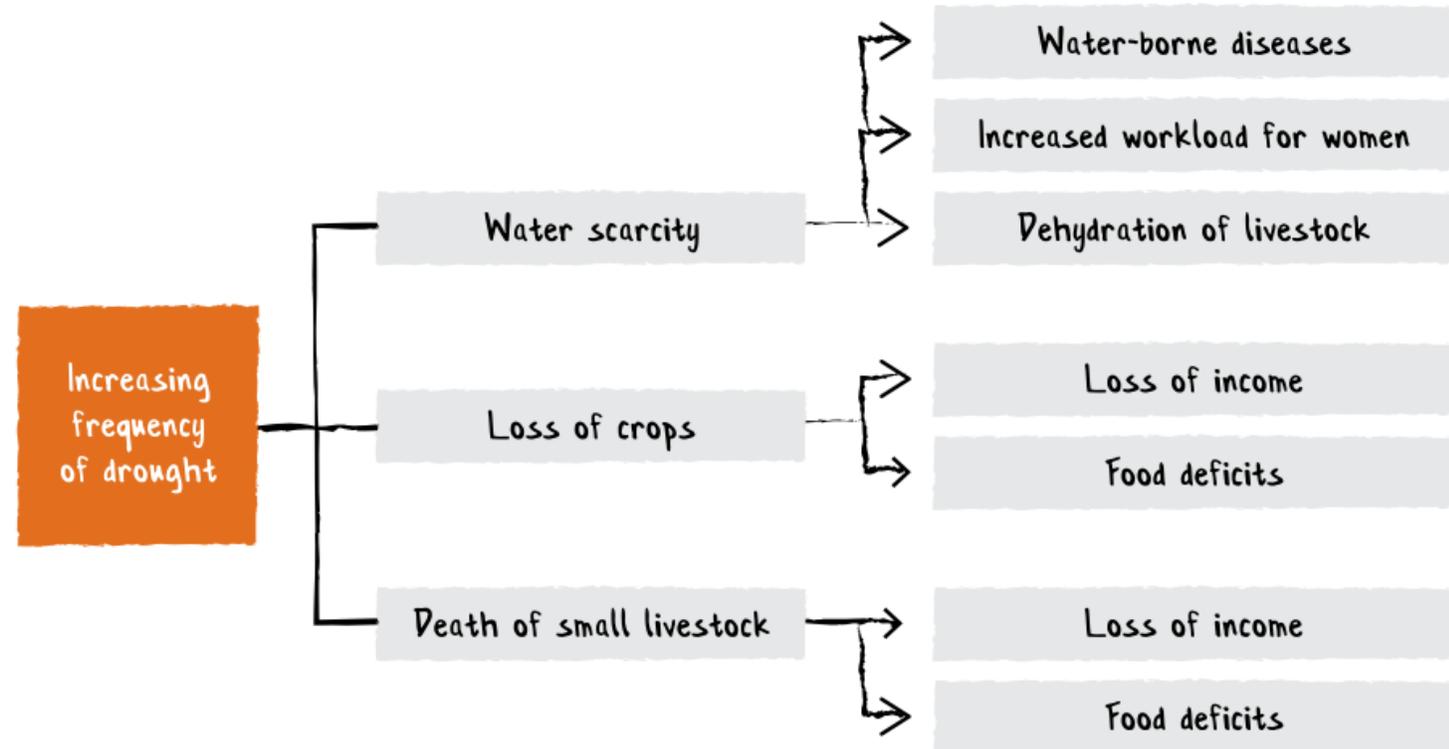


Community members map their village as part of a CVCA process in Phongsaly Province in Northern Laos. Credit: Benjamin Pomerleau/CARE.

Mapping Climate Risks and Impacts

How?

- **Impact Chains Tool** - to identify direct and indirect impacts of climate-related shocks and stresses on people's livelihoods. It provides a basis for discussing how people are responding to these shocks and stresses



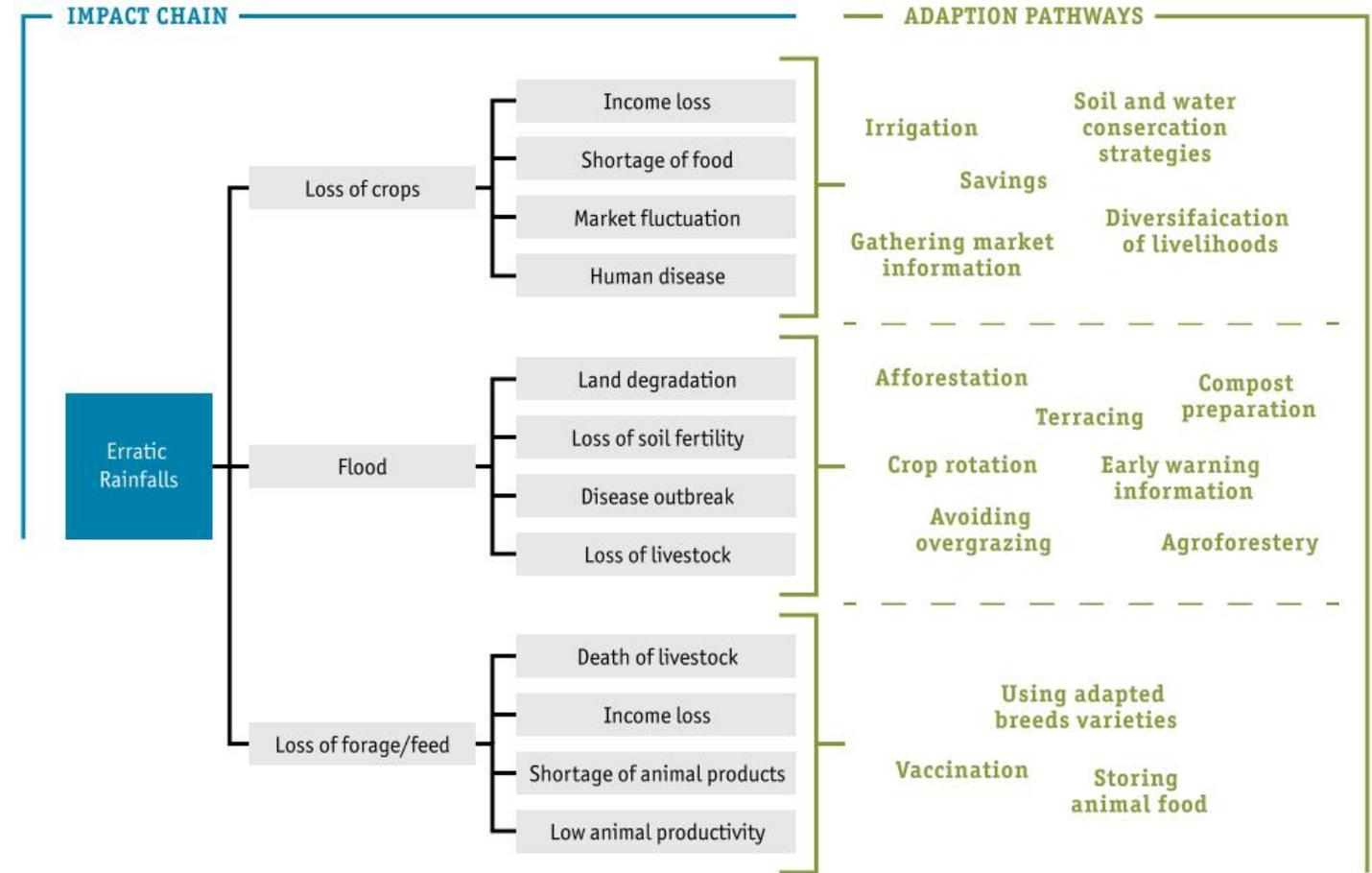
Impact Chains tool. Source: CARE, 2019

Mapping Climate Risks and Impacts



How?

- **Adaptations pathway tool** - After looking at impact chains, you can use the adaptations pathway tool to get community input on what changes they could make to reduce the negative effects of the identified shocks and stresses



Adaptation pathways based on identified impacts. Source: CARE, 2019



Designing your plan for local adaptation action



What climate adaptation actions are already happening in your community?

First do your homework

Questions to ask yourself at the start include:



Who else might be working on similar issues?



Can you find allies and/or opportunities to partner with others?



The CAAP process – Step by step

Template for Community Adaptation Action Plan

Community Vision	INSERT VISION FROM TOOL 1 – Visioning									
Climate change effect or hazards	Impacts	Adaptation Options	Target group	Who will implement?				When	How? Resources	Indicators of success
				HH*	Community	Govt.	Other			
Insert info from CVCA and other CAAP tools	Insert info from CVCA and other CAAP tools	Insert adaptation options selected with comparison table								

*HH= Household *CAAP = Community Adaptation Action Plan

Assess your actions with the AGP Checklist

Whatever actions you plan to undertake, it is important to assess them against the [Adaptation Good Practice \(AGP\) Checklist](#).

Assess your implementation plan against the checklist's nine criteria and make any necessary changes.

THE AGP CHECKLIST

The UNFCCC Paris Agreement creates the framework for increased financial flows for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The Adaptation Good Practice Checklist provides guidance on actions and criteria which help to ensure that adaptation results in quality, impactful and long-term climate resilience for the most vulnerable people.

1 Analyse climate risks, differential vulnerability and capacity of people, ecosystems and institutions.



© Anissa Yahya/ALP, 2010



© Charlotte Kiewerfeldt/CARE Denmark, 2015

2 Ensure participation, agency, transparency and inclusion of all groups.



© Tamara Pusch/CARE, 2011

Adaptation Good Practice AGP Checklist

3 Incorporate management of uncertainty and use of climate information.



© Agnes Otzoberger/ALP, 2015



© Charlotte Kiewerfeldt/CARE Denmark, 2015

4 Promote adaptation planning and decision making processes which are anticipatory, flexible and forward looking.

5 Innovation, local and indigenous knowledge and technology: Promote innovation, local (including traditional and indigenous) knowledge and technology.



© Pierre Poulmarc, 2014



© Charlotte Kiewerfeldt/CARE Denmark, 2015

6 Ensure an integrated and holistic response with adaptive management of climate related risks and impacts over time.



© Tamara Pusch/CARE, 2011

Adaptation Good Practice AGP Checklist

7 Establish institutional arrangements and linkages which facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement.



© Eric Adams/ALP, 2014



© Yonas Tefesse/CARE Ethiopia, 2014

8 Integrate learning, capacity building, monitoring and knowledge management processes.

9 Support ongoing and sustainable adaptation at scale.



© Agnes Otzoberger/ALP, 2015

Prioritize which adaptation actions to implement



Consider what is feasible. Ask yourself:

Are the actions **technically feasible**? Do you have the necessary technological resources to implement them?

Are the actions **financially feasible**? Do you have the necessary financial resources? If not, how might you secure funding?

Do you, or your team, have the **capacity** to implement the actions?

How will the actions **impact the community**?



Monitoring and Evaluation

- You will need to **keep track of their progress and evaluate whether they are making the intended impact.** That's where Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) comes in.
- Design a MEL framework before implementing your adaptation actions. This means you can **learn from and update your actions as you progress.** A MEL framework can inspire you as you track your achievements.



Credit: Antony Trivet/Pexels.

A MEL framework will help you **demonstrate impact when you are communicating about your work to others,** which is important when trying to convince donors and partners to support and collaborate.

How can we strengthen Youth Engagement?



How can we strengthen Youth Engagement?



CASE STUDY:

Community-Based Adaptation at Scale – Implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique

Heatwaves, recurring droughts and extreme rainfall are the harsh reality of climate change for communities in Southern Africa. Ecosystems and infrastructure suffer, while people struggle to have enough to eat. To support those groups most impacted by climate change, community-based adaptation is a proven model of success. It aims to provide livelihood opportunities for communities suffering from climatic shocks. The project will work in about 100 communities in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Project partners will introduce a variety of solutions to navigate the changing climate, ensuring that these are nature-based, gender-responsive and fair. The project aims to support about 500,000 people to manage climate risks. The adaptation actions will act as a stimulus for scaling up. In addition, the project will work with decision-makers at the national and international level to foster an enabling policy and financing environment for communitybased adaptation. By doing this, many more communities will be able to benefit from the impact of the project.

How can we strengthen Youth Engagement?



CASE STUDY:

Community-Based Adaptation at Scale – Implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique

The project intervenes at multiple levels to scale up CBA implementation, an effective strategy for building resilience to climate change in an inclusive, gender-responsive, and nature-based manner.

Workpackage 1

Strengthen the planning and implementation of inclusive, gender-responsive and nature-based CBA actions

Workpackage 2

Create an enabling environment for implementation of CBA actions through supporting national and sub-national policies and plans

Workpackage 3

Capture learning with the goal of driving increased support for and replication of inclusive, gender-responsive and nature-based CBA

How can we strengthen Youth Engagement?



CASE STUDY:

Community-Based Adaptation at Scale – Implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique

Discuss in groups how youth engagement can be strengthened beyond project design.

Implementation
Process



Institutionalisation
Process



Scaling up

How can we strengthen Youth Engagement?



CASE STUDY:

Community-Based Adaptation at Scale – Implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique

Discuss in groups how youth engagement can be strengthened beyond project design.

Implementation Process

How can youth be meaningfully involved in the implementation of climate adaptation actions, such as leading local initiatives, monitoring progress, or mobilising communities, and what specific structures or support would make this participation effective and sustainable?

Institutionalisation Process

How can youth contribute to embedding community-based adaptation processes (like CVCA and CAAP) into local or national institutional frameworks - such as through advocacy, participation in formal planning spaces, or capacity strengthening of institutions - and what additional roles can youth play to ensure these processes become part of long-term systems and structures?

Scaling Up

How can youth-led climate adaptation initiatives or approaches be scaled up or replicated in other regions or sectors, and what role can youth play in advocacy, knowledge sharing, or partnership building to support this process?

Recap



Group Recap and Reflections