

How can MEL systems be strengthened?

Regional Dialogue on Enhancing MEL systems in MENA and South Asia

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How can we **strengthen** MEL systems?



National level

National level
planning and
budgeting
National
Programmes

National
Adaptation Plan,
Nationally
Determined
Contributions

Sector level

Sectoral planning
and budgeting
Sector-specific
programmes

Sectorial
Strategies

Local level

Sub-national/municipal level
planning and budgeting
Programmes and projects

Impact evaluation of local
adaptation

- Embed in existing national planning, budgeting and statistical systems
- House within central mandates and link to sectoral and local level institutions
- Formalize roles and responsibilities through legal instruments and official mandates

Aligning NAPs, MEL Systems, Adaptation Communications and BTRs with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)



Instrument	Core Function	Link to GGA
NAP	National planning framework	NAPs define national adaptation priorities, strategies, and actions. Alignment with the GGA requires: • Linking NAP objectives to GGA thematic targets (e.g., water, food, health, ecosystems) • Embedding measurable indicators consistent with GGA frameworks • Integrating adaptation into sectoral and development planning
MEL system	Monitoring mechanism	MEL systems operationalize adaptation tracking by: • Defining indicators and methodologies at national/local level • Collecting and managing data • Supporting learning and adaptive management
Adaptation Communication	Narrative reporting	Provides qualitative context
BTR	Formal reporting instrument	Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), BTRs include: • Information on adaptation actions and impacts • Progress toward adaptation goals Alignment with the GGA requires: • Consistent use of indicators and data sources, Integration of MEL outputs into reporting • Coherence with NAP priorities and AdCom narratives

Examples of **national** MEL systems



Bangladesh

- Bangladesh, highly vulnerable to climate impacts, approved its **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** in 2022, emphasizing long-term adaptation across water, agriculture, disaster management, biodiversity, and urban development. A **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework**, integrated with the MRV system, tracks outputs, outcomes, and impacts, supporting evidence-based decision-making and learning-by-doing.
- The MEL system has **three tiers**:
 - **Tier 1**: Simple traffic-light indicators for rapid progress tracking (aligned with Belém process indicators).
 - **Tier 2**: Outcome-focused SMART indicators assessing adaptive capacity improvements (aligned with Belém outcome indicators and GGA objectives).
 - **Tier 3**: Advanced monitoring with detailed aggregation and longitudinal tracking for sectoral refinement and global reporting.
- Institutional arrangements include the **Interministerial Steering Committee on Climate Change (ISCCC)**, the **National Technical Advisory Committee (NTACCC)**, and the **Interministerial Technical Working Group**, supported by the **Climate Change and Information Knowledge Management (CCIKM) platform**, which consolidates climate and socio-economic data.

Examples of **sectoral** MEL systems



Egypt

- Egypt is near completion of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- UNDP, with FAO through the SCALA programme, has been supporting the MEL frameworks for the NAP, in particular for the water and agriculture sectors
- The agriculture framework, led by FAO, includes an Excel-based tool linking NAP targets to adaptation pathways and 412 indicators, aligned with national and global frameworks like the Global Goal on Adaptation. A national refined the system, introduced a tiered MEL integration approach, and strengthened stakeholder capacity for climate reporting.
- The water sector framework, developed with UNESCO, includes validated indicators and tools, capacity-building for 30 stakeholders, and has been showcased internationally, including at Cairo Water Week and on the UNFCCC Adaptation Knowledge portal.

Challenges to operationalize MEL systems



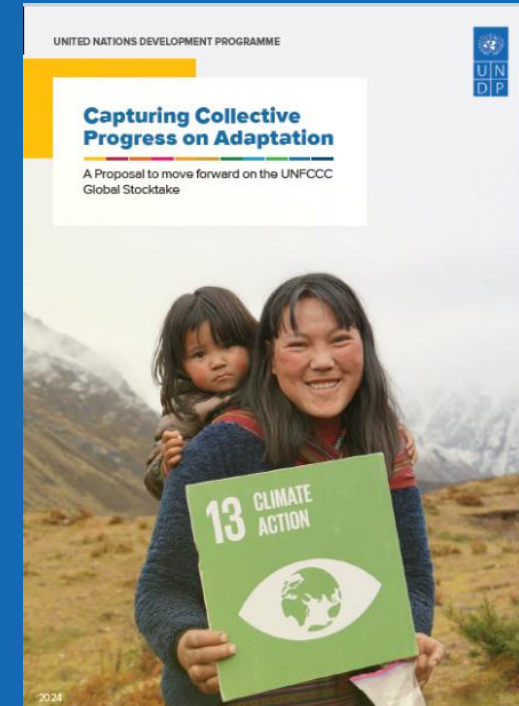
- Data gaps & quality issues: Limited availability of reliable, disaggregated, and long-term data
- Institutional coordination: Fragmented roles across ministries and weak data-sharing mechanisms
- Technical capacity: Limited expertise to design, implement, and maintain MEL systems
- Resource constraints: Insufficient funding for data systems, monitoring, and reporting
- Complexity of indicators: Difficulty measuring adaptation outcomes (vs. outputs) and long-term resilience
- Non-operational frameworks: In some countries (e.g., BiH), MEL systems are still under development

Considerations to **strengthen** MEL systems



- Keep it simple: *measure progress with set of 'core indicators' aligned with GGA rather than attempting to identify progress on individual measures*
- Use what already exists: *build on existing system to avoid duplication of reporting burden and embed in national systems*
- Participatory approach: *distributed responsibilities for reporting of relevant data as required*
- Maintain consistent financing and capacity-building: *necessary for data collection, analysis, and use to be maintained over time*
- Ensure that the information generated actually informs policy, planning, and investment decisions

Thank you



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