



INTEGRATION

PILOT PROJECTS MERGE CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT



Warming average global temperatures are predicted to cause a range of local climate change impacts around the world in coming decades. Impacts will vary from country to country, but virtually all countries and communities will face new risks and opportunities linked to shifting climate and weather extremes—and greater uncertainty about what climate and weather patterns to plan for in the future. To ensure today's economic development plans are sustainable and designed to withstand the shifting climate conditions of tomorrow, we must integrate our best climate change knowledge and practice into all development plans today.

Climate change has implications for routine development plans, and it also has implications for development crises, including weather-related disasters and conflicts over natural resources. Climate change is often referred to as a “stress multiplier” for its ability to exacerbate ongoing stresses.

Either way, the solution is the same. Whether climate change introduces new stresses or exacerbates existing ones, countries, communities, and development workers must use the best available climate science, knowledge and information to integrate climate variables into development planning today.

CLIMATE-SMART INTEGRATION AT USAID

USAID engages with dozens of countries and communities around the world to support programs in agriculture, energy, infrastructure, economic development, democracy and governance, and to provide humanitarian assistance. Climate change adds a new variable to all these efforts, giving integration a special meaning at USAID.

All USAID development efforts aim to reduce vulnerability and help communities build resilience to current and future stresses. But if hotter temperatures change the nature, intensity or frequency of future stresses, there is the risk that today's preparations won't match tomorrow's reality. Countries and communities should consider climate and weather forecasts in all planning decisions to ensure they are investing in development options that will increase resilience, slow emissions growth, and position themselves to benefit from the emerging global clean energy economy. Investing in low emission development today is critical to sustainability.

Because different places will face different challenges, USAID is working with country partners and development professionals to seek innovative ways to include climate change considerations in existing development programs for food security, democracy and governance, agriculture, infrastructure, energy, health, education, gender and disaster preparedness.

WHAT IS INTEGRATION?

Climate change has the potential to impact virtually all countries and all economic development activities, from tourism to energy, agriculture, coastal development, and infrastructure, in multiple and variable ways. As temperatures rise, communities around the world must learn to anticipate shifting climate and weather patterns and factor this information into planning.

There is no one best response or best solution because the impacts will vary from place to place. For this reason, climate change integration at USAID means asking key questions about the local environment for all projects and activities. Will coastal infrastructure withstand increasing storm surges and sea level rise? And how can we increase agricultural productivity while lowering emissions from land use?

To fast-track learning and ensure the ongoing generation of new lessons, USAID is funding integration pilots to pioneer and test new ideas and approaches in different places around the world.

“Climate change affects every aspect of development—agriculture, energy, infrastructure, everything we do. This means we must integrate climate-smart planning into every activity—from food security to disaster preparedness to economic growth—every dollar we invest should build climate resilience and, when possible, reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

— Kit Batten, GCC Coordinator

INTEGRATION PILOT PROJECTS

To fast-track learning and identify new challenges, USAID is funding pilot projects around the world. The pilots are designed to generate experience and new learning for integrating climate knowledge into development activities.

Some integration pilots are just starting, and others are already generating lessons about how to integrate climate-related risks, opportunities, and vulnerabilities into development interventions to increase effectiveness and sustainability. Formal evaluation plans are being developed to ensure lessons are clearly identified and shared across USAID.

Kazakhstan Officials Promote Climate-Resilient Wheat

Increasing drought is expected to reduce wheat output in Kazakhstan, the primary supplier to wheat-dependent Central Asia. USAID is working with Kazakh officials and research scientists to improve access to weather and climate data and information, to ensure the information is accessible to local wheat growers, and to raise awareness of food security risks in neighboring countries that depend on Kazakhstan wheat exports.

Macedonia Uses Municipal Climate Change Planning to Build Trust in Civil Society

USAID is supporting a two-year initiative to strengthen civil society in Macedonian cities using a participatory process to develop local climate change strategies. Local civil society organization Milieukontakt Macedonia is leading the work, bringing civil society and municipal officials together to implement a climate-specific version of the Green Agenda.

Dominican Farmers Use Risk Management Techniques

With climate change, smallholder Dominican farmers are becoming more vulnerable to disasters and crop damage risks. USAID is training 1,000 smallholders in climate science, financial management, and the use of risk reduction techniques like using ponds to store water for livestock. Some farmers can also insure their crops using low-cost index insurance designed by USAID partners—Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate and Society and global insurer Swiss Re—both world leaders in this emerging area.

Bangladesh: Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Rice Farming

USAID is supporting work to investigate the impact of deep-placement fertilization techniques on greenhouse gas emissions and intensification of rice production.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Clean Energy to Power Agriculture

USAID is working to improve access to small hydropower energy sources for agricultural production in the DRC.

Ecuador: Increasing Climate Change Resilience in Guayas Province

USAID is working with local governments and communities in Ecuador's largest province to increase access to climate change science and data and to build local capacity for climate change adaptation planning.

Ethiopia: Peace Centers for Climate and Society Resiliency

USAID and Ethiopia are working to increase the climate resilience of pastoralists by strengthening community governance structures and local peace centers and by sharing lessons for resolving natural-resource conflicts.

Guinea: Agriculture and Climate Change Education, Research and Application

In Guinea, USAID is helping integrate information about natural resource management and conservation into the curricula of national agriculture education programs in order to promote climate-smart land use practices in the agriculture sector.