



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ADAPTATION THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND ASSESSMENTS (ATLAS): ADVANCING CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

USAID’s mission is to help countries move along a pathway toward self-reliance and resilience. Yet climate related risks can cause or contribute to serious economic, social, and environmental disruptions.

Around the world, many countries are experiencing more unpredictable droughts and floods, stronger and more frequent storms, extreme heat and rising sea levels. To manage these risks and reduce losses, USAID and implementing partners need access to relevant information and analysis. The Adaptation Thought Leadership and Assessments (ATLAS) activity goes beyond general climate vulnerability assessments to develop the specialized decision-making tools and guidance needed for effective adaptation responses across USAID development programs.

THE RESPONSE

ATLAS is a USAID-funded activity that assists the Agency and its partners to test approaches and develop good practices for climate-resilient program investments. ATLAS conducts user-tailored vulnerability assessments, tests and harmonizes approaches to assessment and adaptation response, provides thought leadership on key adaptation issues and develops capacity of USAID staff and country partners. Technical work under the activity will conclude in March 2020, with discrete activities continuing through December 2020.

PHOTO CREDIT: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA FOR ATLAS

ATLAS APPROACH

Working with USAID technical offices and regional bureaus in Washington D.C. and USAID missions around the world, ATLAS collaborates with experts on research, analysis and technical assistance related to climate adaptation. A key feature of ATLAS is targeted capacity development for USAID staff, including workshops, webinars, guidance documents, and other specialized assistance to help them put research and analysis into practice. ATLAS also uses outreach and communications to ensure that USAID implementing partners, country counterparts and the wider adaptation and development practitioner communities are also able to access, absorb and apply lessons learned.

ATLAS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Climate-related assessments to inform decision-making specific to the USAID program cycle
- Guidance and templates on methods for tailored vulnerability assessments and good practices on adaptation responses for resilience outcomes
- Thought leadership papers synthesizing adaptation research and programming needs of USAID bureaus and missions, as well as of partners and the adaptation community
- Expert and practitioner workshops to exchange adaptation approaches and experiences
- Applied research and communications support for USAID missions to promote adaptation approaches and good practices among partners

EXAMPLES OF ATLAS ACTIVITIES

- Recommendations on responses to climate impacts affecting health programming in Senegal and Mozambique
- Assessment of climate risks to transport sector infrastructure and services in Jamaica and other Small Island Developing States
- Study of the role of decentralized governance in building community-level resilience in Mali
- Assessment of climate risks to future Food for Peace development food security activities
- Guidance on how to incorporate the findings of climate vulnerability assessments into development programming

For more information on support to USAID missions, contact one of USAID's ATLAS activity managers.

CONTACTS

USAID ATLAS TEAM

- Jessica Torrens-Spence, Contracting Officer's Representative, EGEA/AFR/SD, gtorrens-spence@usaid.gov, +1 (202) 712-0310
- Colin Quinn, Africa Bureau Activity Manager, AFR/SD, cquinn@usaid.gov, +1 (512) 567-8071
- Jessica Anderson, DCHA Activity Manager, RFS/AID, janderson@usaid.gov, +1 (202) 712 0219

ATLAS PROJECT TEAM

- Chris Perine, Chief of Party, ATLASinfo@chemonics.com, +1 (202)955-3344

Visit <http://www.climatelinks.org/projects/atlas> for activity resources and to learn about upcoming events.