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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 impacts 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 to support effective adaptation responses across USAID 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.

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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. 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

EXAMPLES OF ATLAS ACTIVITIES

- Assessment to support the integration of climate risk in Food for Peace food security activities
- Analysis of the changing seasonality of malaria, and the influence of those changes on the number of people at risk across sub-Saharan Africa
- Guidance for cities in developing and implementing climate adaptation monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- Assessment of climate risks to transport infrastructure and services in Jamaica and other Small Island Developing States
- Guidance on integrating Social and Behavior Change into climate change adaptation and resilience programming
- Recommendations on integrated approaches and adaptation strategies to build resilience in agricultural value chains and improve household responses to food security shocks

ATLAS resources and content can be found by visiting <http://www.climatelinks.org/projects/atlas>.

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