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Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Change Activities: Helping Cities Measure Up

Adaptation Community Meeting
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ATLAS
Adaptation Thought Leadership and Assessments

Monitoring and Evaluation Climate Change Activities: Helping Cities Measure Up

Speakers

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Social Impact

— Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Literature review: M&E for urban climate adaptation activities
3. Climate adaptation M&E reference guide for cities
4. Case study: Cagayan de Oro, Philippines



Introduction

Why monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for climate change adaptation (CCA) activities?

- Experience showed cities have climate vulnerability assessments and/or climate adaptation action plan
- Experience also showed M&E was either missing or a weak point in plans
- Identified need to systematically measure the effectiveness of CCA activities

Introduction

Overview of activity

- 1) Literature review of CCA M&E globally—with focus on cities—to identify best practices drawn from existing frameworks.

BEST PRACTICES IN MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION

A LITERATURE REVIEW



Introduction

Overview of activity

- 2) Develop a reference guide that draws on the literature review to assist cities in developing CCA monitoring and measurement systems.

Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Adaptation Activities

A Reference Guide for City Managers



Introduction

Overview of activity

- 3) Pilot the reference guide to develop a CCA response monitoring and measurement system in a city.

ADAPTATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY



Introduction

Challenges specific to CCA M&E

- Desired outcome of adaptation actions is often experienced over long timescales, and adaptation is a process, not an end-goal
- Uncertainty and variability make it hard to set and keep accurate baselines for monitoring
- Success in adaptation is hard to define

Introduction

Challenges specific to CCA M&E

- Attribution of outputs or outcomes to specific adaptation actions is not always clear
- A lack of standard M&E adaptation metrics and language
- The responsibility and costs of adaptation actions span all sectors and departments in a city

Literature review: M&E for urban climate adaptation activities

Literature Review

- The goal was to examine the experiences of adaptation M&E to date and analyze how cities could apply lessons learned.

Methodology: identified adaptation M&E frameworks for analysis by using the following criteria:

- Information on the process and application of the framework was available publicly
- Focused on climate change adaptation (not disaster response or other related topics)
- Relevant to urban context and sectors
- Applied recently (within the last 5 years) or recent iterations have been published
- Robustly cited and referenced

Current State of Adaptation M&E

- International organizations
 - World Bank Group
 - Climate Investment Fund
 - Global Environmental Fund
 - United Kingdom Department for International Development
- Common Elements
 - Purpose driven by donor reporting results , all originally developed
 - Results based frameworks following M&E best practice
 - Indicators tight and focused with mix of quantitative and qualitative
 - Indicators that can be aggregated at portfolio level
 - Evaluation and learning are a strong component with extensive capacity building

Current State of Adaptation M&E

- National governments
 - Philippines
 - Kenya
 - Norway
- Common Elements
 - Applied existing generic adaptation M&E frameworks like Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD) framework.
 - Driven by reporting on national adaptation plans and international commitments
 - Aggregation from local or regional scale
 - Some leveraging of existing data, platforms and institutional structures
 - Legal or regulatory framework that mandates reporting

Current State of Adaptation M&E

- City experiences
 - Helsinki
 - New York City
 - Rotterdam
- Common Elements
 - These cities have created their own approaches that vary greatly– but each has started with minimal basic structures with plans to scale up in future
 - Driven by a need for public reporting and transparency on spending, as well as awareness building and public engagement resulting in use of web platforms and IT systems for public tracking
 - Most currently using only process indicators with some limited outcome indicators

Key Takeaways

Act fast, as impacts keep coming

- Swift action is as important as getting a strong foundation
- Establish a few key components building on existing data and institutional structures
- Find the right balance between robust and practical data collection



Ex: Washington DC, July 2019, time is of the essence and cities need to learn and evolve quickly!

Make it the law

- Codifying adaptation M&E helps ensure success in implementation
- A policy, regulation, or law that demands regular reporting on climate action progress incentivizes monitoring and evaluation. This incentive gives the lead agency a mandate for action.

Key Takeaways

Good practice is good practice

- Good practice in M&E generally also applies to M&E for urban adaptation actions, but with local twist
- A results based framework with a strong theory of change, logic frame, and explicit inputs, outputs, and outcomes are best

Preparation + flexibility = success

- Planning and design are crucial, but iterating and flexibility are key.
- Context is crucial: An off-the-shelf framework will likely not work for all cities
- Purpose will drive design of the framework, and needs may change, hence the need for flexibility

The right governance paves the way

- Proper institutional structures will ease and enhance implementation
- Wide and deep stakeholder engagement early in process is key- ownership of M&E is needed across all sectors of local government
- Stakeholder engagement is an opportunity for capacity building

Climate adaptation M&E reference guide for cities

Reference Guide

Purpose

- A guide for city managers and staff to create a citywide climate adaptation M&E program.
- The guide details essential components and provides a structure for cities to plan and implement an adaptation M&E framework.



Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Adaptation Activities

A Reference Guide for City Managers

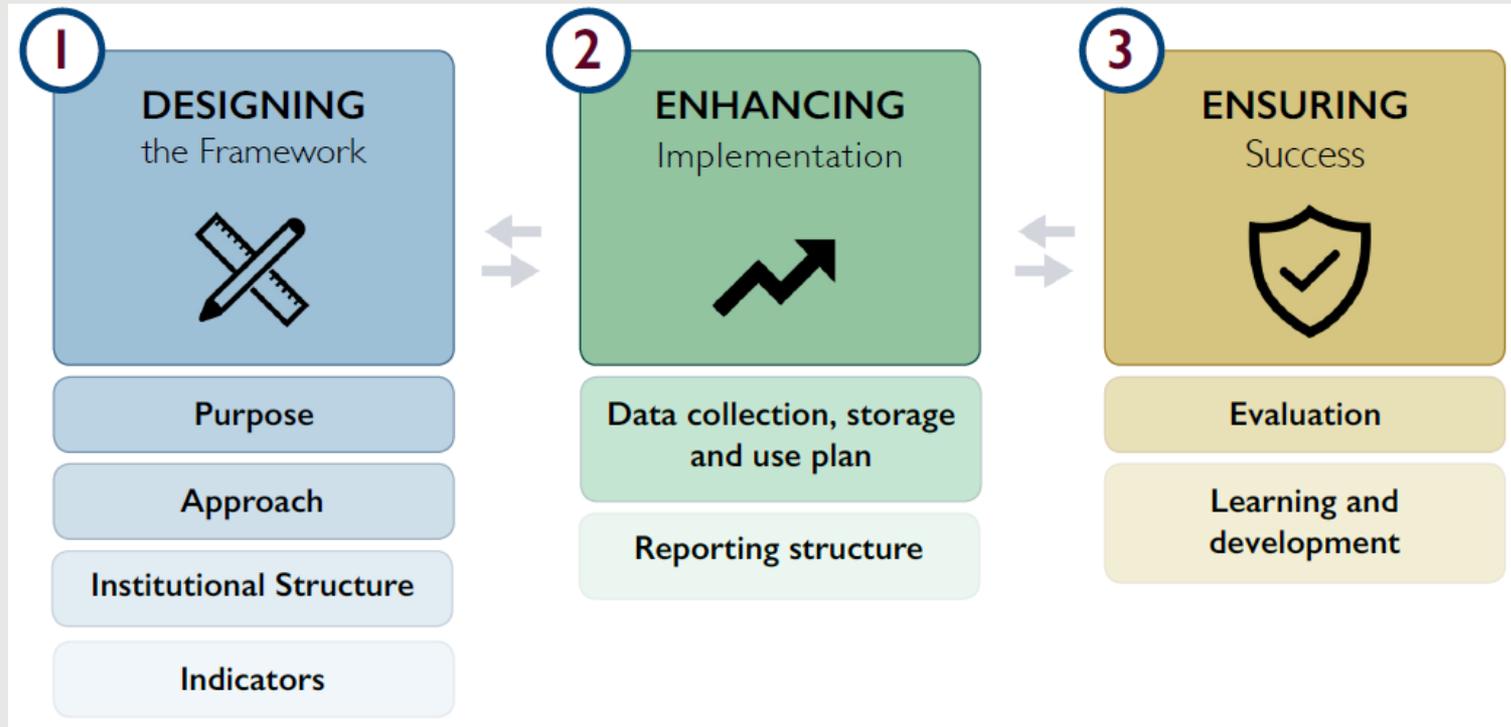


Reference Guide

Prerequisites

- ✓ The city has completed a climate vulnerability assessment or risk assessment.
- ✓ The city has completed an adaptation plan (or climate action plan with adaptation components), including the prioritization and selection of specific adaptation actions to implement.
- ✓ The city has conducted (or will conduct) an assessment of its M&E capacity.

Reference Guide



Reference Guide

Subsection structure



Key recommendations a summary of essential recommendations



Guidance: in-depth context and explanation of key recommendations

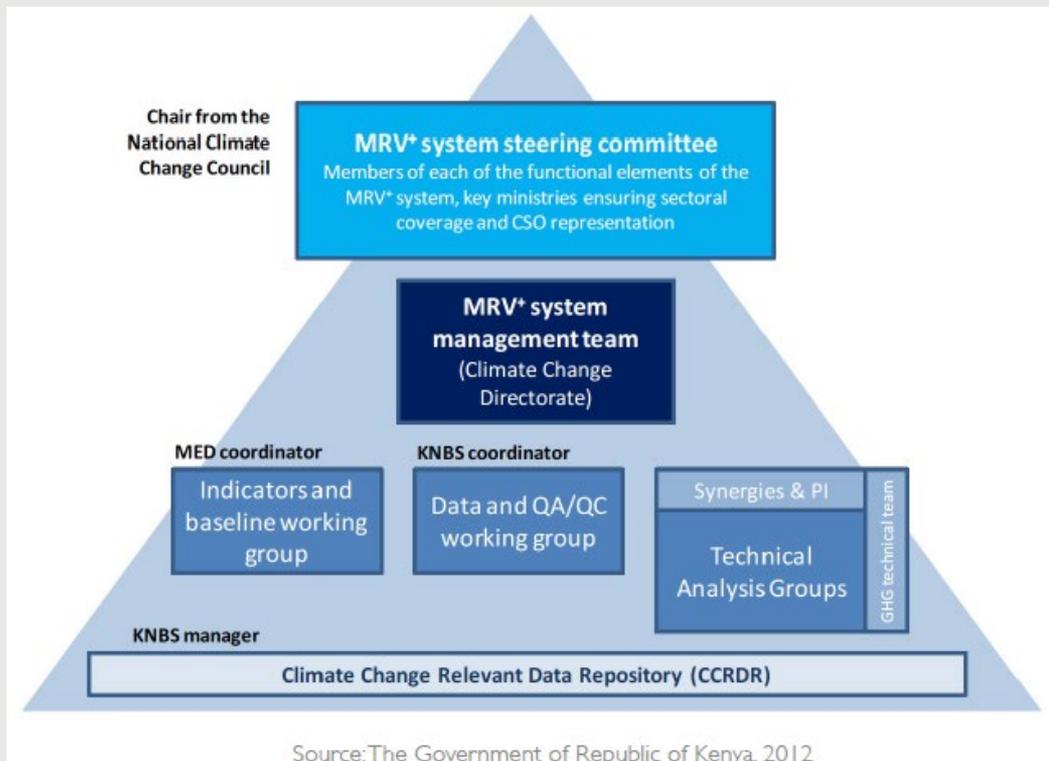


Best practice: best practices pulled from references and case studies



Resource: M&E tools and publications that go into more detail on the component

Reference Guide



EXAMPLE: Technical Working Group Responsibilities

- Developing a climate adaptation action plan
- Helping to develop or validate a theory of change
- Developing and periodically reviewing indicators
- Creating a data collection plan
- Providing data quality assurance reviews
- Contributing to reporting
- Reviewing and providing feedback on the adaptation program and M&E framework
- Conducting evaluation activities or studies

Reference Guide

EXAMPLE: Data Sources

- **Climate trend** data from national meteorological agencies
- **Climate projection** data
- **Socioeconomic** data on household-level activity
- **Utility use** data
- **Emergency services** data
- **City information services** reports (e.g., 311 reports in the US)
- National databases of **infrastructure** (Ex. Databases of bridges)
- **Community feedback**
- **Household surveys**
- **Expert interviews**
- **Site-based tools** like flood sensors
- Frequent **vulnerability assessments**
- **Hazard maps**

EXAMPLE: Data Collection Plan Components

- **Sources of data** for each indicator
- **Data collection tools** used for each indicator: Examples include:
 - **Primary data:** surveys, focus groups, sensors or site-based measurement tools
 - **Secondary data:** reports, vulnerability assessments, risk assessments, development data
- **Frequency** of data collection
- **Responsibility** for data collection (per indicator)
- **Data quality standards** (USAID data quality standards include: validity, integrity, precision, reliability and timeliness)
- **Data validation** and quality assurance practices
- **Estimated cost** of data collection and indication of budget available to cover costs
- **Definition** of the output of data collection

Piloting an M&E System for Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

— Agenda

1. M&E Assessment & Results
2. M&E System Design Considerations
3. Recommendations for CDO & Donors



M&E Assessment

- Assessment conducted in April, 20 19
- Desk Review of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) and other keys documents
- Adapted MEASURE Evaluation’s M&E Capacity Assessment Tool (MECAT)
- Administered the MECAT systems assessment and individual assessment modules
- Included KIIs with 29 personnel from city departments, CSOs, and academia

TOPICS FOR SYSTEMS		TOPICS FOR INDIVIDUALS
Organizational Capacity	Routine Monitoring	M&E General Competency
Human Capacity	Surveys & Surveillance	Data Collection & Management
Partnerships & Governance	Databases	Evaluation
M&E Plan	Data Quality Assessment	Data Analysis, Dissemination & Use
Costed M&E Work Plan	Evaluation & Research	
Culture	Data Demand & Use	

Summary of Assessment Results

- CDO's M&E system captures financial and physical accomplishments only
- No office or authority with the mandate to implement the LCCAP
- No LCCAP reporting requirements
- No LCCAP funding
- Some organizational and human capacity for M&E, though limited
- Growing interest in M&E by leadership and newer staff

M&E System Design Considerations

- The proposed M&E system includes:
 - Steps that can be taken now, under current conditions
 - Steps that could be taken if LCCAP is actively managed
- Based on the M&E system for the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System (RBMES)
- Tailored to the current Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs) and policies, mapped to NCCAP Strategic Priorities and Intermediate Outcomes

Key Recommendations - CDO

- Create a basic M&E plan with standard indicators to accompany the Mayor's agenda
- Build M&E culture by integrating data discussions into performance meetings
- Strengthen the City Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to cover all its M&E responsibilities
- Integrate M&E appropriately into job descriptions and performance reviews
- Develop an M&E training plan for basic and advanced skills
- Consider prioritizing funding to LCCAP PPAs

Recommendations - Donors

- Donor assistance could be pivotal to CDO becoming a model of M&E improvement
- Short-term:
 - Fund M&E TA and training to help CDO address recommendations
 - Provide CCA training for LCCAP working group members
 - Consider funding consultants to conduct evaluations and/or gather indicator data
- Long-term:
 - Fund dedicated support to CDRRMD to update and implement an existing system to collect indicators
 - Engage national CCA leaders to improve LCCAP implementation, including designating management responsibilities and reporting requirements and funding of PPAs
 - Consider scaling promising pilot interventions that tackle M&E capacity of cities

Resources available on [Climatelinks.org](https://www.climatelinks.org)

- Best Practices in Monitoring and Evaluation of Urban Climate Adaptation: A Literature Review
 - <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/best-practices-monitoring-and-evaluation-urban-climate-adaptation-literature-review>
- Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Adaptation Activities: A Reference Guide for City Managers (**forthcoming**)
- Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation System: Cagayan De Oro City (**forthcoming**)
- Other ATLAS resources
 - <https://www.climatelinks.org/projects/atlas>

— Thank You!

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