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## BUILDING BLOCKS FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

USAID helps countries and communities predict and prepare for climate variability and change. Our efforts help to minimize losses and disruption so that communities can deal effectively with stresses related to climate and weather. This helps them sustain their livelihoods and thrive, which promotes stability.

Leaders and the people they serve need **data and information** to understand climate and weather-related risks and make informed decisions about the **best risk reducing actions** to take. **Strong governance systems** and institutions enable decision-makers to **develop and finance plans and policies** that ultimately put these actions into motion.

## CONTEXT

Based on global experience and best practice, the USAID Global Climate Change Office (GCC) developed four “building blocks” for climate resilient development: information, governance, risk reducing practices and finance. These are not mutually exclusive, but rather interdependent and mutually reinforcing. To be effective, they should be considered holistically in planning and design processes.

## PURPOSE

The building blocks help to define climate resilient development at USAID. They comprise a consistent approach to increasing weather and climate resilience across a variety of sectors, including food security, health, water security and urban management. By standardizing and communicating these building blocks, USAID can consistently apply a climate resilient approach across programming in different sectors. The building blocks can be used throughout the program cycle and in conjunction with the [Climate Risk Screening and Management Tools](#).

## STRUCTURE

An overview of each building block is provided below; sectoral building blocks (where each of the building blocks is applied to a sector) are also available for urban systems, health, and water. The sectoral building blocks identify primary challenges to implementation, USAID’s approach to date, illustrative interventions, examples of USAID projects that have worked to address the challenge and enabling conditions necessary for success.



## **BUILDING BLOCK 1**

### **IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY, QUALITY AND USE OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION**

Accurate information is critical to identifying and prioritizing climate and weather-related risks, and designing responses to manage impacts over time. Simply providing quality data is not enough: to be effective, the data must be analyzed in useful ways and integrated into decision-making processes. Additionally, it must be reliable, accessible and timely, and decision-makers and end-users must be aware of the data and information and its utility for sectors, geographies, groups and timescales of interest.



## **BUILDING BLOCK 2**

### **MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION MEASURES INTO GOVERNANCE, PLANNING AND BUDGETING**

A country's ability to plan for the potential gains and losses posed by weather and climate trends hinges on whether it has effective and flexible governance capacities at different scales from local to national to regional. Governments and other institutions need support to identify concrete opportunities to integrate climate information into planning, policy and budgeting so that risk management is mainstreamed across all priorities. With a greater awareness of and ability to manage climate risks using participatory and evidence-based approaches, they will be able to adapt in a timely way, secure investments and engage citizens, thereby increasing resilience democratically and equitably.



## **BUILDING BLOCK 3**

### **PILOTING AND DISSEMINATING RISK-REDUCING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, health and water have already adopted some risk reduction measures for handling variable conditions, but in many places, risk reduction needs to be strengthened and expanded. Risk reducing practices should be robust and flexible, and designed to address the most critical risks posed by weather variability and climate change. They should also be context-specific, technically and financially feasible, and tested and proven through demonstration studies with multi-stakeholder engagement. Actions to facilitate awareness and scaling of good practices include: widely demonstrating results from pilots; providing training to individuals, managers and operators and facilitating exchanges across geographies and scales.



## **BUILDING BLOCK 4**

### **MOBILIZING FINANCE FOR ADAPTATION MEASURES FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES**

Finance for climate resilient development can come from various sources: leveraged private sector finance, philanthropic funds, debt instruments such as green bonds, national development banks or local and national budgets. National and sub-national authorities and private actors should start by ensuring that their own investments are designed to account for potential climate and weather-related risk and should seek to access and manage funds from a range of sources. The types and modalities of funding depends on the particular needs and opportunities in a given context (e.g. private sector may be more interested in certain investments, whereas other needs may require public or mixed finance approaches).