



THE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

INTEGRATING CLIMATE INTO THE DEVELOPMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS



Photo credit: USAID

Floods, droughts, coastal storms, and changes in temperature and precipitation can undo decades of development progress and pose direct threats to economic investments. USAID's Climate Change Resilient Development (CCRD) project integrates climate into development decision making, with the goal of helping developing countries withstand the impacts of climate on their development goals and investments.



WHAT IS CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT?

Climate resilient development is an approach that systematically includes climate variability and change as key issues for consideration during development decision-making processes. This approach promotes the long-term sustainability of development.

WHY IS CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IMPORTANT?

Climate change imposes real and significant impacts on agriculture, urban development, human health, and many other sectors. For example, higher temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns can reduce crop yields. Stronger or more frequent coastal storms can limit economic development by destroying infrastructure and property in vulnerable areas. Higher temperatures, combined with changes in the frequency and magnitude of heavy rains, can increase the incidence of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

By building resilience to climate impacts, developing countries can protect the development gains they have already made and improve the outcome of future development investments.

WHAT IS USAID'S CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT (CCRD) PROJECT?

USAID is committed to helping developing countries achieve development goals – such as reducing poverty, increasing access to education, improving child health, combating disease, and sustaining the environment – by implementing programs that address infrastructure and technology investments, capacity building, and policy reform. Through its CCRD project, USAID's Global Climate Change Office supports these development objectives by ensuring that climate impacts are appropriately considered in development decisions. This approach

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEVELOPMENT

Jamaica

Between 2001 and 2010, extreme weather events caused about US\$1.1 billion in damages, with average annual losses amounting to 2% of the nation's GDP.

Nepal

Melting glaciers have created large, fast-growing mountain lakes. These lakes can burst through their natural dams, causing flash floods, loss of life, and damage to villages, agricultural fields, and tourism in the valleys below.

Kazakhstan

Bread is the lifeblood of the Central Asian diet. However, climate change is expected to increase droughts and change seasonal precipitation patterns, adversely affecting the availability and price of wheat. These changes could threaten Kazakhstan's role as the world's 7th largest wheat exporter and critical supplier of wheat to Central Asian countries.



Photo credit: USAID

CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

USAID's climate-resilient development framework provides a flexible, integrated approach to development planning that incorporates consideration of climate variability and change as part of the planning process. Using this framework helps encourage decisions that build climate resilience.

puts development first, while also incorporating measures that address climate variability and change by increasing the resilience of people, places, and livelihoods to climate impacts.

USAID provides technical support to missions, bureaus, developing countries, and partners in the following ways:

Supporting Climate Resilience in Developing Countries

USAID generates guidance and case studies for bureaus and missions on how to incorporate climate considerations into development decisions. This guidance includes specific annexes related to water, coastal resources,

vulnerability assessment, governance, and disadvantaged populations. USAID also provides direct assistance to developing countries in designing, planning, and implementing climate resilient development programs and policies. For example, USAID is supporting Jamaica in its development of a new policy framework for achieving national development goals, such as tourism and economic development, in the face of climate impacts.

Coordinating and Partnering

USAID partners with other government agencies to incorporate climate considerations into existing development decision processes. This approach is producing important collaborations such as the Adaptation Partnership coalition, which connects governments, institutions, and practitioners involved in adaptation, and enables them to share adaptation knowledge, lessons learned, and good practices (www.adaptationpartnership.org).

Leading in Emerging Areas

USAID identifies emerging climate impacts, and offers related technical assistance, tools, and capacity-building. For the High Mountain Glacial Watershed program, USAID and partner organizations assembled a team of engineers and scientists from Peru and the U.S. to share knowledge, scientific expertise, and on-the-ground technical assistance with communities in Nepal to prevent flooding from fast-growing glacial lakes.

USAID supports the Climate Services Partnership (CSP) which produces, interprets, shares, and uses knowledge about climate and weather to support decision making in developing countries. CSP is evaluating an innovative program in Mali that helps farmers select crops and decide when to plant based on seasonal rainfall information. USAID also provides small grants for community-level projects. Grants can be used, for example, to design climate-resilient adaptations that will address local concerns, identify and prioritize climate vulnerabilities and adaptation options, or serve as seed funding for local adaptation actions.

How to Receive CCRD Support

USAID Missions, Bureaus, and partners interested in receiving technical assistance, small grants, or other services can contact the following USAID representatives:

Ken Baum, USAID CCRD Contracting Officer's Representative (COR): kbaum@usaid.gov

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Establishes development context and focus

Identifies:

- Priority development goals and key inputs to achieving them
- Climate and non-climate stressors
- Needs and opportunities



Enhances understanding about vulnerability

- Defines vulnerability assessment questions
- Selects methods
- Assesses vulnerability
- Provides actionable information



Identifies, evaluates, and selects adaptation options

- Identifies adaptation options
- Selects evaluation criteria
- Evaluates adaptation options
- Selects an adaptation option or portfolio of options



Puts adaptation into practice

- Builds on established implementation and management practices
- Adopts a flexible approach to account for continuing change
- Incorporates climate information into baseline values and indicators



Tracks performance and impact

- Builds on established evaluation practices
- Measures performance
- Evaluates impacts of actions on vulnerability
- Informs adjustments to adaptation strategies

Source: USAID. Climate-Resilient Development: A Framework for Understanding and Addressing Climate Change. March 2014.

<http://www.usaid.gov/documents/1865/climate-resilient-development-framework>



Photo by: USAID