

## ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR LOCAL CCA ACTION PLAN

### Developing a local CCA action plan (LAAP)

Central to CFE II are the local climate change adaptation action plans which will be implemented in three pilot communities in each country. These plans will provide clear guidance for communities and local government for actions they can take to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather, and adapt to future changes. Ultimately, the action plan will guide the implementation of small scale adaptation projects in the target communities as the project progresses.

The Assessment methodology to develop a local CCA action plan as described in this document refers to Activity 2.1 and is the base to be used for drawing up the local CCA action plans.

#### What is a local CCA action plan?

Climate change alone is rarely the most serious problem facing any community. However, the effects of climate change can exacerbate existing problems and drive new challenges. By assessing the impact of climate change on challenges facing a community, a good action plan can identify entry points for activities which will reduce the impact of climate change on communities and livelihoods, and guide future planning for the changing risks associated with climate change.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- Identify the main challenges and sectors in the community that are affected by climate
- Propose realistic solutions and approaches to allow the community, local government and civil society to adapt to the current and future challenges of climate change

The scope and approach of each plan depends on the community involved and the needs and gaps identified. The plan should be a living document that the community can build on and develop as their needs and the challenges they face change.

The development of such local level action plans is a new activity for the region; consequently, collecting experiences and lessons learned from such activities will be a valuable way to scale up this approach in the future.

#### What a local CCA action plan should include

- Overview of the target community
- Assessment of past and current climate risks
- Projections of future climate risks
- Information about available weather forecast information (short, medium and long term)
- Assessment of community vulnerabilities (including those not related to climate/disasters)
- Assessment of community priorities (including those not related to climate/disasters)
- Assessment of community assets and capacities
- Concrete recommendations for decision-makers (targeted primarily at local government)
- Concrete recommendations for community members
- Concrete recommendations for CSOs

## METHODOLOGY

Below is the outline of a sample methodology to develop a local CCA action plan. This can be adjusted based on the requirements of the community, but the plan development should involve both desk research and community consultation. Without a strong sense of community ownership, the plan is unlikely to succeed!

### 1. Background research

- Desk research based on existing data and studies
- Supplement with interviews with local experts where appropriate

### 2. Community level research

- Identification of local needs in a participatory way, consulting with key stakeholders in community, local government and other relevant organisations (especially locally active CSOs)
- Validation of desk research at community level

### 3. Development of draft action plan

- Data analysis and prioritization of key risks and challenges
- Formulation of initial recommendations

### 4. Validation of draft plan at community level

- Presentation of findings, including vulnerability and climate risks information through roundtables, community meetings etc.
- Feedback from key stakeholders, including local government and civil society
- Alignment with existing community/municipality development plans where appropriate

### 5. Development of final plan

- Initial plan finalized and agreed by all stakeholders

### 6. Implementation

- Monitoring the implementation of the plan, and adjusting where necessary based on stakeholder feedback

**Annexe:**

**A. Key sources of information for desk research:**

- National CVAs
- UNFCCC National Communications
- Existing national reports and studies on climate change/disaster preparedness
- Local government documentation/statistics
- Municipality/community development plans
- Data from local weather stations
- National and regional experts

**B. Key stakeholders at municipality and community level**

- Representatives of municipality government structure
- Representatives of community government structure (mayor etc.)
- Representatives of the emergency services
- Any local representatives of hydrometeorological service
- Teachers
- Farmers (where appropriate)
- Female-headed households (try and ensure a gender balance more broadly)
- Low income families
- Families from IDP settlements (Eco-migrants, etc.)
- People from minorities
- People with disabilities
- Representatives of locally active civil society organisations

**C. Key climate-related questions to ask local stakeholders**

- What is the historical hazard profile of the community? Are people reporting that some hazards becoming more frequent and/or intense? Are some hazards less frequent?
- Are the patterns of seasonal onset changing? Is spring coming generally earlier? Are the patterns of seasonal flooding changing? What times of year do hazards normally occur, and has this changed? Are hunting/fishing catches changing at different times of the year?
- What are the trends in temperature and rainfall recorded at the nearest or regional weather station? What are the historical extremes in temperature and rainfall?
- What are the climate change *projections* for your country/region? In the short and medium term, are meteorologists projecting that the region will get wetter? Drier? Is the rainfall likely to become more unpredictable or more intense/concentrated on shorter periods?
- Have there been any new kinds of disasters, pests, human or animal diseases in recent years?

## Assessment Methodology for local CCA Action plan

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- What kinds of forecast information do you receive? Do you make decisions based on these forecast? What kind of forecast information would be helpful for you?

### **D. Possible tools approaches for community-level discussions\***

- Seasonal calendar
- Historical profile
- Hazard mapping
- Problem tree
- Questionnaire
- Focus groups
- Interviews

*\*all outlined in detail in the IFRC VCA toolbox; this list is not exhaustive and many other approaches are possible.*

### **E. Checklist for assessing local CCA action plan**

*The finalised action plan should provide a positive response to the following questions!*

- Is the local CCA plan a unique document tailored to the community needs?
- Are all vulnerable groups in the community covered/considered in assessment and recommendations?
- Are all climate-related risks for the community considered and prioritized?
- Does it include recommendations for specific changes to be made both at the community, and at local government level for community adaptation?
- Will implementation of those recommendations lead to sustainable community development for better CCA?
- Does the CCA action plan sound enough realistic in order to take further adaptation steps by community and local decision-makers? Will the action plan mean taking real actions by the community members? And by local decision-makers?
- Does the proposed CCA action plan have links to other related strategies or action plans (on climate, energy, local development etc), developed for the region in larger geographical scale? Is the action plan in line with it? If not, is there a good explanation for the reason?
- Does the proposed CCA plan have practical ideas for small scale adaptation projects to be implemented?