The Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management Approach

Strengthening Climate Resilience

The questions in the approach are suggestions only and support services?

1a. Strengthen collaboration and integration between disaster risk management, climate change and development studies.

1b. Periodically assess the effects of climate change on current and future disaster risks and uncertainties.

1c. Increase access of all stakeholders to information and support services concerning climate change, disaster risk management and development.

1d. Use tools and methods to plan for uncertain and unprecedented events.

2a. Promote more socially just and equitable economic systems.

2b. Promote regular learning and reflection to improve the implementation of policies and practices.

2c. Enhance adaptive capacity, Address poverty & vulnerability.

2d. Increase knowledge of changing risks and uncertainties in planning, policy and programme design to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of people’s lives and livelihoods.

3a. Empower communities and local authorities to influence the decisions of international organisations, NGOs, organisations and to promote accountability and transparency.

3b. Forge partnerships to ensure the rights and interests of the people are incorporated into existing strategies. How are environmental impact assessments and climate smart development approaches integrated into these interventions?

3c. Build partnerships across sectors, at community, sub-national, national, regional and international levels. How flexible, have regular feedback loops and practices been changed as a result of institutions, organisations and vice versa?

3d. Promote the ability of people, organisations and networks to experiment and innovate. How are the institutions, organisations and networks able to design, assess and adapt and the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities being left behind in different contexts?

4. Enhance adaptability capacity.

4a. Strengthen collaboration and integration between disaster risk management, climate change and development studies.

4b. Periodically assess the effects of climate change on current and future disaster risks and uncertainties.

4c. Increase access of all stakeholders to information and support services concerning climate change, disaster risk management and development.

4d. Use tools and methods to plan for uncertain and unprecedented events.

5a. Address poverty, vulnerability and the structural causes.

5b. Enhance adaptive capacity.

5c. Promote more socially just and equitable economic systems.

5d. Increase knowledge of changing risks and uncertainties in planning, policy and programme design to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of people’s lives and livelihoods.

6a. Empower communities and local authorities to influence the decisions of international organisations, NGOs, organisations and to promote accountability and transparency.

6b. Forge partnerships to ensure the rights and interests of the people are incorporated into existing strategies. How are environmental impact assessments and climate smart development approaches integrated into these interventions?

6c. Build partnerships across sectors, at community, sub-national, national, regional and international levels. How flexible, have regular feedback loops and practices been changed as a result of institutions, organisations and vice versa?

6d. Promote the ability of people, organisations and networks to experiment and innovate. How are the institutions, organisations and networks able to design, assess and adapt and the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities being left behind in different contexts?

REFERENCES


The impacts of climate change on disaster risks are profound, complex, and unpredictable, causing widespread damage and loss in highly vulnerable regions, particularly in low-income countries and small island states. As climate change progresses, the frequency and severity of extreme weather events is increasing. This has led to a growing awareness of the need for disaster risk management (DRM) policies, projects, and programmes in the context of a changing climate. The aim is to reduce vulnerabilities, enhance adaptive capacity, and develop a new resilience framework by focusing on immediate disaster risk management. As such, DRM is a necessary measure to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the goal of fostering resilient infrastructure and cities (UN, 2015).

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What are the impacts of climate change on disaster risk?

Climate Change is...

• Increasing uncertainty and frequency and severity of some, but not all, hazards.

• The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) concluded that the frequency and intensity of several types of weather-related disasters such as heavy rainfall, drought, and extreme weather events is increasing and this trend will continue. At the same time, no clear patterns are observed among other types of weather-related disasters and extreme events depends on the specific type of event, as well as on the region in question. The recent experiences of the UK and New Zealand of severe floods, and the Philippines of strong typhoons, highlight the importance of making sure the risk of flooding is not assumed to be the same everywhere.

• Increasing people’s vulnerability and exposure to rapidly changing and often unpredictable shocks and stresses. Many areas are becoming less resilient to such hazards.

• Agriculture is decreasing crop yields, increasing water scarcity, leading to a loss of biodiversity and natural assets provided by ecosystems, causing new patterns of resource allocation and migration in the context of increasing food insecurity.

• Extreme weather and climatic events continue to be an important driver of migration patterns, yet have not been well documented through well-designed, systematic studies with an appropriate focus on those who are being moved by climate risks and those who are moving in response to those risks. The IPCC noted that for non-climate migration, the main drivers are: war, famine, political instability, and floods. For climate migration, this is still a relatively new area of study and research.

• Adaptive capacity refers to our ability to change management practice(s) in a way that improves the probability that the systems in question will perform better under future climate change. The ability to adapt can be enhanced through research and development, with the ultimate goal of strengthening resilience. However, the ability to adapt is increasingly uncertain, and the impacts of climate change are likely to become more severe.

• Uncertainties associated with resilience, adaptive capacity and vulnerability are critical, climate-sensitive elements of the Humanitarian Framework for Assessment (HFA). The HFA was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2005 to guide global humanitarian response to natural disasters. The HFA is based on the ten characteristics of adaptive capacity highlighted in the paper by Aditya V. and others.


• The current framework is too focused on immediate disaster risk management and does not sufficiently consider the long-term implications of these actions in a changing climate.

• Similarly, the three regions has demonstrated that, despite efforts to mainstream climate change, disaster risk reduction and development in the policy and practice spheres, the three regions have not yet fully operationalized the emerging approach in different contexts. It examines the applications of the concept of adaptive capacity in these three regions and discusses what resilience and adaptation in funding, policy and practice means in different contexts.

• There are numerous entry points for a DRM approach to disasters, development and climate change, and this guide aims to provide a conceptual framework for identifying such entry points. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive guide to the DRM approach, nor a guide to strategic planning, programme or policy development, but rather a guide to understanding the DRM approach to disasters, development and climate change.

• The DRM approach is based on the principle that DRM can be effective in reducing disaster risk by targeting those factors that can be influenced or controlled by DRM policies, projects and programmes. DRM is a cross-cutting issue that can be integrated across sectoral boundaries in the same way that climate change and development is.

• Integrating climate scenarios, whether at the national, sub-national or community level and has become critical at all levels – from the regional and national, to sub-national and community level – and has become critical in order to examine: (a) the applications of the concept of adaptive capacity in these three regions and (b) the applications of the DRM approach in different contexts. It examines the applications of the concept of adaptive capacity in these three regions and discusses what resilience and adaptation in funding, policy and practice means in different contexts.

• There is a need to explore the potential of the concept of adaptive capacity in different contexts and in different regions.

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