

ADAPTATION UNITED

Building blocks from developing countries on integrated adaptation



Clive Mear / Tearfund

Integration or mainstreaming?

Tearfund suggests that integration goes further than mainstreaming. Mainstreaming, though needed, has limited effectiveness.

INTEGRATED ADAPTATION is holistic, coordinating the interactions between agencies' operations from the beginning, rather than optimising them separately. It is about action across government ministries **and** involving all levels of society.

All ministries and sectors must make every effort to take a joined-up approach to climate change adaptation, rather than acting separately. It is critical that developed countries fund and support developing country-owned integrated approaches. Examples of building blocks for integrated adaptation are provided overleaf.

For adaptation to be genuine and lasting at the national and local level, affected citizens and local actors must have strong ownership of it and active participation in it.

Participatory processes can lead to a country-owned climate-resilient national development plan and to greater government accountability for ensuring that action on adaptation reaches the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Action is required by multiple agents

- **Policy decision-makers in developing country governments** are primarily responsible for achieving a country-owned, climate-resilient national development plan
- **Developed country and multilateral agencies** must support country-owned processes
- **Local NGOs and civil society** must be involved at all stages in a country's adaptation design, planning and implementation
- **INGOs and expert advisers** such as academics and scientists need to advocate for integrated action and to align their own work with such efforts.

What efforts towards integration have already been made?

National and international efforts to work in integrated ways on climate change adaptation remain largely in their infancy.



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Even where national adaptation plans exist, it often falls to a few, relatively powerless government officials in environment ministries to attempt to lead any sort of coordinated, cross-ministerial and multi-agency response. There are significant exceptions to this, in countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal.

Climate change adaptation plans are likely to fail if they are not integrated into broader development and disaster management plans, and vice versa.

A snapshot of developing country efforts

BANGLADESH has formed a national climate change strategy and action plan across 14 ministries which can apply to the country's own Climate Change Trust Fund for financial support for their own integrated programmes.

NEPAL has produced an 'expanded' National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and has been effective in achieving countrywide ownership of this NAPA. Its Local Adaptation Programme of Action is a mechanism for increasing local government and civil society involvement.

HONDURAS has carried out a country-wide consultation and established an inter-agency committee on climate change.

INDONESIA has integrated its climate change policies into the government's five-year medium-term development plan.

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Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency working with a global network of local churches to help eradicate poverty.

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20447-(0311)



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Integrated approaches to adaptation offer an equitable and sustainable solution

BOLIVIA, KENYA AND UGANDA have a climate change cell, or similar, in the Ministry of Environment (or equivalent) to coordinate cross-ministerial efforts.

Developed country and multilateral agencies have identified integration as a strategic priority. However, policies promoting integration are inconsistent because developed country and multilateral agency adaptation programmes continue to be siloed from development programmes and tend to be 'donor driven', which conflicts with the need for country-led and civil society-led action.

Building blocks for integrated approaches to adaptation

Developing country governments, with the support of the multiple agents listed overleaf, need to:

- provide **senior political leadership** with the authority to drive inclusive activity from the top – based on an understanding of climate science and climate politics
- undertake **consultative and participatory** evidence-gathering in order to achieve country-wide ownership of a national adaptation plan
- **improve communication** around the science of climate variability and change because lack of information creates a barrier to involving local actors in adaptation planning
- develop robust, inclusive, **country-strategic adaptation action plans**,

instead of each government ministry working towards its own goals

- **align national development plans** with the country-owned adaptation strategy
- establish a dedicated **adaptation fund** which is additional funding but which is then integrated into national development budgets
- build the capacity of **local government and civil society** to facilitate their involvement
- promote the **alignment** of developed country and multilateral agency adaptation programmes with the country's own adaptation strategy.

These recommendations are based on field research carried out in Bangladesh and Nepal and telephone interviews in Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Peru and Uganda.

Tearfund sought to identify some building blocks for successful integrated climate change adaptation. The subsequent report – *Adaptation United, Building blocks from developing countries on integrated adaptation* – was published in March 2011. Please email sarah.wiggins@tearfund.org for more information, or access the full report here: <http://tilz.tearfund.org/research>