

Factsheet for young people

CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN AFRICA

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Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)

Locally led adaptation (LLA) is about ensuring that local people have individual and collective agency over the adaptation process.

Over 60 percent of the population are smallholder farmers and over 55 percent of the urban population live in informal settlements in Sub-Saharan African countries. Therefore, LLA holds the promise of unlocking variegated responses to highly localized risks in contexts marked by deficits in formal governance machinery.

MAIN BARRIERS



Local public institutions across the African continent continue to have low administrative and fiscal capacity, hampering a devolution of decision-making powers.



The International finance institutions (IFIs) that channel most of the international public climate finance are by and large not mandated to devolve funding to local governments.



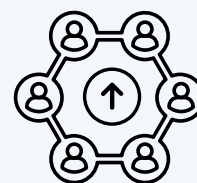
Many local governments lack the trained staff and the budget to operationalize policies effectively—particularly in sectors that require a degree of technical know-how such as adaptation to climate impacts



For those that receive finance for LLA, an important challenge is around “readiness” for accessing, managing and utilizing climate finance.

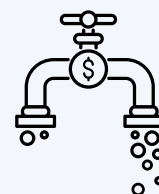
KEY NUMBERS

The 10 countries in the world rated as most vulnerable to climate change are all in Africa, according to the latest ND-GAIN Country Index.



More than 80 entities including governments and international organizations pledged to implement the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.

On average, **only 14.1 percent** of staff



expenditure in the public sector in Africa is allocated to local governments, which are responsible for only 11 percent of all public investment, impeding locally led adaptation.



Over 60 percent of the population

in Sub-Saharan Africa are smallholder farmers and over 55% of the urban population live in informal settlements.

THE CLIMATE FRONTIER PROJECT



Bangladesh

The Climate Frontier Project is a storytelling project that collected 1,000 stories from climate-vulnerable women in Bangladesh to learn about the effects of climate change on women and adaptation measures they take before and after natural disasters.

The project revealed that climate change has had a significant impact on the lives of women in coastal and flood-affected regions of Bangladesh. Impacts include loss of crops, livelihoods, and homes due to natural disasters, and many families are forced to migrate to cities in search of work. Despite these challenges, the women demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability. They

developed coping mechanisms to deal with the effects of natural disasters, such as storing food and water, constructing flood-resistant homes, and diversifying their livelihoods. They also developed social networks to support each other during difficult times.

The project highlights the importance of empowering climate-vulnerable women and supporting their adaptation strategies. Key recommendations include that policymakers and development organizations invest in programs that support women's livelihoods, promote climate-resilient infrastructure, and strengthen social networks in climate-vulnerable communities.

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GOOD PRACTICES: YOUTH-LED ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS



Mukuru, Kenya

Mukuru is one of Nairobi's largest slums, housing some 100,000 families. While people have lived here since the 1980s, housing conditions are extremely poor with frequent incidents of flood, fires, and other hazards apart from poor sanitation, water, and access to other basic services. To remedy the situation, the Nairobi City County (NCC) officially declared Mukuru as a Special Planning Area (SPA), ceasing further development activity for two years until a Mukuru Integrated Development Plan is produced. Central to the SPA has been the creation of consortiums where community groups work alongside local government, academic institutions, and international organizations to identify investment priorities in the areas of water, sanitation and energy; health services; education, youth and culture; environment and natural resources; housing, infrastructure and commerce; and community organization.

To shift away from a "business as usual" way of working where "experts" exclusively assess risks, local organizations have employed community-centered methodologies to identify risks and develop action plans to address them. This has resulted in a model of climate-resilient slum redevelopment that is authentically locally led.

This example demonstrates how devolved decision-making can be operationalized to ensure that marginalized communities have a voice in the development of sustainable solutions for enhancing resilience in a transparent and accountable manner. It also demonstrates how local institutions can be strengthened to lead on adaptation planning with support from governments and non-government actors, and how "robust" decision-making that relies on melding insights from experts and communities can be operationalized.

KEY MESSAGES

International funders should significantly scale up the volume of climate finance that they deliver through LLA mechanisms.

International funders—in particular global climate funds—should create channels for providing finance directly to subnational governments and institutions.

International funders should significantly increase finance to constituency-governed organizations that provide some of the most locally grounded adaptation solutions.

Countries with devolved governance systems should establish subnational adaptation planning and investment processes so that climate action is downscaled to local governments.

In countries without devolved government systems, governments should build the capacity of national climate finance institutions to deliver finance in line with the LLA Principles.

Where governments deliver local level development programs with adaptation co-benefits, these should be aligned with the LLA Principles.

Civil society organizations should expand the coverage of tried and tested LLA delivery mechanisms, while also deepening support so that they are longer-term and more predictable.

Governments should explore the possibility of creating and/or capacitating subnational climate funds and institutions that can access adaptation finance.

Large-scale NGOs that deliver finance through traditional international financing modalities should aim to mainstream the LLA Principles into programming in order to improve accountability for local constituents.

PRINCIPLES FOR LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION

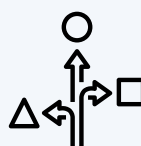
Principle 1: Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level ensures that those most affected by climate change have agency over decisions about adaptation finance and programming that will affect them.



Principle 5: Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty supports locally led adaptation by ensuring that interventions reflect understanding of local climate risks, current resilience-building practices, and uncertainties about direct and indirect climate impacts on local communities, as well as provide access to appropriate tools to handle uncertainties.



Principle 2: Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized ethnic groups entails actively recognizing and redressing the power dynamics, imbalances, and development deficits that create vulnerability, poverty, and marginalization.



Principle 6: Flexible programming and learning recognizes that it is important to maintain budget and programmatic flexibility as well as space for adaptive management and learning.

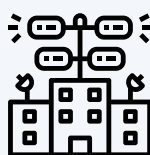
Principle 3: Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily requires that funding mechanisms be simplified, and finance provided over longer, more predictable timescales to enable greater access to funding by local actors, support adaptive management and learning, and adequately strengthen local institutions.



Principle 7: Ensuring transparency and accountability requires that decision-making and governance structures are made explicit, so it is clear which decisions are made at what level of the organization and by whom. It also should be ensured that financing flows are made transparent and can be publicly tracked, and ultimate accountability should be to local actors themselves.



Principle 4: Investing in local institutions to leave institutional legacies means building and strengthening local institutions by building capacity to understand climate risks and uncertainties, capacity to generate resilience solutions, capacity to facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives, and capacity for local fiduciary responsibility and management so that these institutions can provide grants and loans to other local actors for local adaptation actions.



Principle 8: Coordinated action and investment by donors, aid agencies, and governments recognizes the need for multiple levels of coordination, horizontally among communities and across sectors and vertically across levels of government and policy processes

MORE INFORMATION

GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is a solutions-broker for adaptation action. The Youth Leadership & Education Program aims to make young people central to driving the adaptation agenda.

Factsheets for young people

This factsheet is part of a series that presents information from GCA's flagship reports State and Trends in Adaptation in Africa 2021 and 2022. It aims to disseminate key adaptation information to young people and showcase youth-led adaptation action from across Africa.

The factsheets are produced under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen Chief Executive Officer of GCA, and the authors of State and Trends' reports Dr. Ede Ijjasz-Vásquez and Dr. Jamal Saghir.

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