

Module 7

Climate Change



Learning Outcomes

- ☐ By the end of this module, participants will:
- ☐ Understand the concept of climate resilience and its relevance to development projects.
- ☐ Gain the skills to integrate climate resilience considerations into project proposals.
- ☐ Identify good practices and common mistakes when addressing climate change in development projects.

INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, primarily due to human activities caused by burning fossil fuels. Its impacts, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and disrupted ecosystems, threaten both natural environments and human well-being.

Resilience in the context of climate change is the ability of communities, ecosystems, and economies to adapt, withstand, and recover from these changes. Building resilience is crucial to minimizing negative impacts and ensuring sustainable development.

STEPS OR PHASES (METHODOLOGY)

Integrating Climate Resilience into Development Projects

1. Understanding Vulnerabilities: Conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify specific climate risks affecting your project area. This might involve mapping low-lying areas or assessing socio-economic capacities to cope with shocks.
2. Designing Resilient Solutions: Develop solutions that address vulnerabilities. For example:
3. Environmental resilience: Use nature-based solutions like restoring mangroves to protect against storm surges.
4. Social resilience: Strengthen community networks and disaster preparedness through capacity-building initiatives.
5. Economic resilience: Diversify livelihoods and promote climate-smart agriculture to safeguard incomes.

Key Concepts/Definitions

Climate Change: The long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns in a place, largely driven by human activities.

Resilience: The capacity of communities and ecosystems to cope with climate-related disturbances by adjusting and adapting to changes.

Nature-based Solutions: Approaches that use natural systems to address climate challenges (e.g., restoring mangroves to protect shorelines).

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

- Start with a Vulnerability Assessment: Ensure your project begins by identifying specific climate risks, understanding which populations or ecosystems are most vulnerable, and assessing their ability to adapt. A thorough assessment helps organizations focus their efforts where they are needed most, develop solutions tailored to the specific challenges, and engage stakeholders more effectively. This process also establishes a solid baseline for monitoring and evaluation.
- Include All Dimensions of Resilience: Address not only environmental aspects but also social and economic resilience. Climate impacts are multifaceted, and projects need to reflect that.
- Use Nature-Based Solutions: Where possible, harness the power of natural systems (e.g., coral reef restoration) to mitigate climate risks while providing additional environmental benefits.