

# The Identification and Early Prioritisation of Adaptation



## Case Study on new ICF Concept Outline for Bangladesh

As adaptation moves from theory to practice, there is a need to identify and prioritise adaptation interventions, while ensuring Value-for-Money (VfM). To support this, DFID has produced a framework, report and tool on early VfM adaptation. This uses an iterative climate risk management approach, as recommended in the recent IPCC 5th Assessment Report. This starts with current climate variability and extremes, and then considers future climate change and uncertainty.

This framework can help in sequencing adaptation activities over time and for identifying early actions that offer good returns on investment. While it includes a focus on low- and no-regret options, it also includes priority areas for mainstreaming and early planning for the long-term. DFID is currently testing the framework in several country offices.

This application was focused on **developing an ICF concept outline for Bangladesh**, as the office was looking at options for the next phase of climate programming.

The early VfM climate risk framework was first used to map the potential climate risks in Bangladesh, looking at current climate variability, early actions with the potential for lock-in and long-term future challenges.

Current climate risks are very large in the country, due to the periodic cyclones and floods, as well droughts in some regions. However, there is also the potential for early decisions to lock-in development to future climate change related risks, particularly due to the high urbanisation rates, and in some particularly vulnerable areas of the countries, where livelihoods may be unsustainable in the longer-term.

*Delivering Value-for-Money Adaptation using Iterative Risk Frameworks & Low-Regret Options*



Finally, it considered the long-term, noting that Bangladesh faces some of the greatest future challenges from climate change anywhere in the world. Interestingly, these risks also included potentially large regional issues with respect to water transfers with neighbouring countries.

The analysis then looked at the potential for VfM adaptation to address these risks, while recognising that Bangladesh has been one of the early leaders in climate change action planning and implementation, with the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). This therefore required a more detailed baseline mapping of existing early low-regret options.

A review found a strong resonance with the DFID framework, i.e. the options identified in the Action Plan aligned to early VfM options on disaster risk reduction, repair and maintenance of protective infrastructure, etc., but it did identify some important gaps.

A number of these were related to the current move towards climate mainstreaming, which is a key theme in the development of Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). This is seeking to build climate change into the national planning process (and five year plans). This process moves away from a stand-alone adaptation plan, and instead is developing a set of actions that align with sector plans and objectives.

An analysis was undertaken to identify potential VfM adaptation for this mainstreaming process.

This identified a key low-regret option – for possible support from DFID in a new programme – would be for capacity building and technical assistance, i.e. to support the institutional capacity and strengthening needed for mainstreaming into national development and budgeting. This is particularly important because of the need to build central technical co-ordination and support capacity, for example in the planning commission, which leads on the national planning process.

Alongside this, the development of mainstreaming in ministries (e.g. ministry of agriculture, water, etc.) is very challenging due to the lower knowledge base and resource constraints in sectors. A critical area identified was to enhance capacity and to provide technical assistance to support these sectors, particularly in sectors where DID is currently engaged, i.e. disaster risk management, health and education, social protection and urban.

An analysis of the VfM tools and inventory provided a justification for this enhanced capacity building, through the value of information, but also the enhanced effectiveness of adaptation outcomes that would result. However, an additional priority was identified to encourage iterative risk management and phasing as part of this process, to enhance low-regret options in these sector or thematic areas.

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