



LIFE-AR

LDC Initiative for Effective
Adaptation and Resilience



Demonstrating Locally-Led Adaptation Principles in Practice

EDITO

While the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) contributed the least to climate change, they disproportionately suffer from its impacts. Adaptation is a matter of survival for many. Climate change adaptation is a multifaceted challenge that requires innovative and effective solutions. Addressing its diverse effects on ecosystems, communities, and economies is complexified by the varied nature of climate influences across regions, economies and populations. Climate adaptation solutions must therefore be anchored in local contexts, considering specific vulnerabilities and capacities.

The principles of locally-led adaptation have been developed to answer this major challenge, and to empower communities to create the conditions that ensure community prioritised actions for climate resilience are implemented. By decentralising decision-making, ensuring that resources reach those who are most affected and by prioritising local knowledge and involving communities in planning and implementation, locally-led adaptation principles aim to provide a tailored, sustainable, and inclusive approach to climate change adaptation.

Applying those principles and implementing them in practice have been a priority for LDCs who depend on efficient adaptation solutions, addressing both immediate concerns and longer-term impacts. These principles have also been embraced by the international development community, who recognise that the previous adaptation approaches have not met the anticipated results.

At the intersection of both, the Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) emerges as a practical pathway for testing and learning and developing innovative tactics for successful implementation.

Mr Evans Njewa,
LDC Group Chair

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Published by
 LIFE-AR Interim Secretariat
 Hosted by IIED
 44 Southampton Buildings,
 London, UK
 WC2A 1AP

LIFE-AR: AN INNOVATIVE INITIATIVE TO ACHIEVE THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES VISION

The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) was established in 2019. This LDC-led, LDC-owned initiative seeks to catalyse a shift in how climate responses are planned, financed and evaluated, in support of the [LDC Vision](#) and the Paris Agreement.

LIFE-AR was developed to respond to the gaps of a “Business-As-Usual” approach to delivering climate finance. Finance for climate action is not accessible to LDCs at the speed and scale needed to adapt to climate risks and uncertainty. Less than 5% of total public adaptation finance provided between 2016-2021 reached the LDCs¹. Adaptation finance that is available typically takes a low-risk approach, prioritising short term, top-down and siloed tactics that have temporary or limited impact. As a result, vulnerable communities are not benefitting enough from climate finance. The inequalities between genders and social groups that sustain deep seated vulnerability remain unaddressed. Nor are countries developing the long-term institutional capabilities, systems and processes they need to strengthen resilience, prosper and thrive in the face of climate risks.

To reshape the climate finance landscape, the LDCs established a principles-based partnership between themselves and development partners. The [LIFE-AR Compact](#), signed by eleven development partners and ten LDCs² is built on the five LIFE-AR Principles based on the values of inclusion, participation, justice, equity and leaving no one behind. Each principle is associated with an “offer” and an “ask” from the LDCs to the international community that reflects a new and equitable approach to climate action. This partnership enables LDCs to determine their own climate priorities and use their own systems to address them. This “Business Unusual” approach, which adopts new, more trusting and understanding ways of working between LDCs and their donors, shaped and driven by climate vulnerable countries, offers new opportunities for action with impact.

BOX 1: THE LDC VISION

For all LDCs to deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050 to ensure our societies, economies and ecosystems thrive.

¹ OECD (2023), *Scaling Up Adaptation Finance in Developing Countries: Challenges and Opportunities for International Providers*, Green Finance and Investment, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b0878862-en>.

² The LDC Signatories are Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda. The Development partner signatories include Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States

LDC OFFERS

LDC ASKS

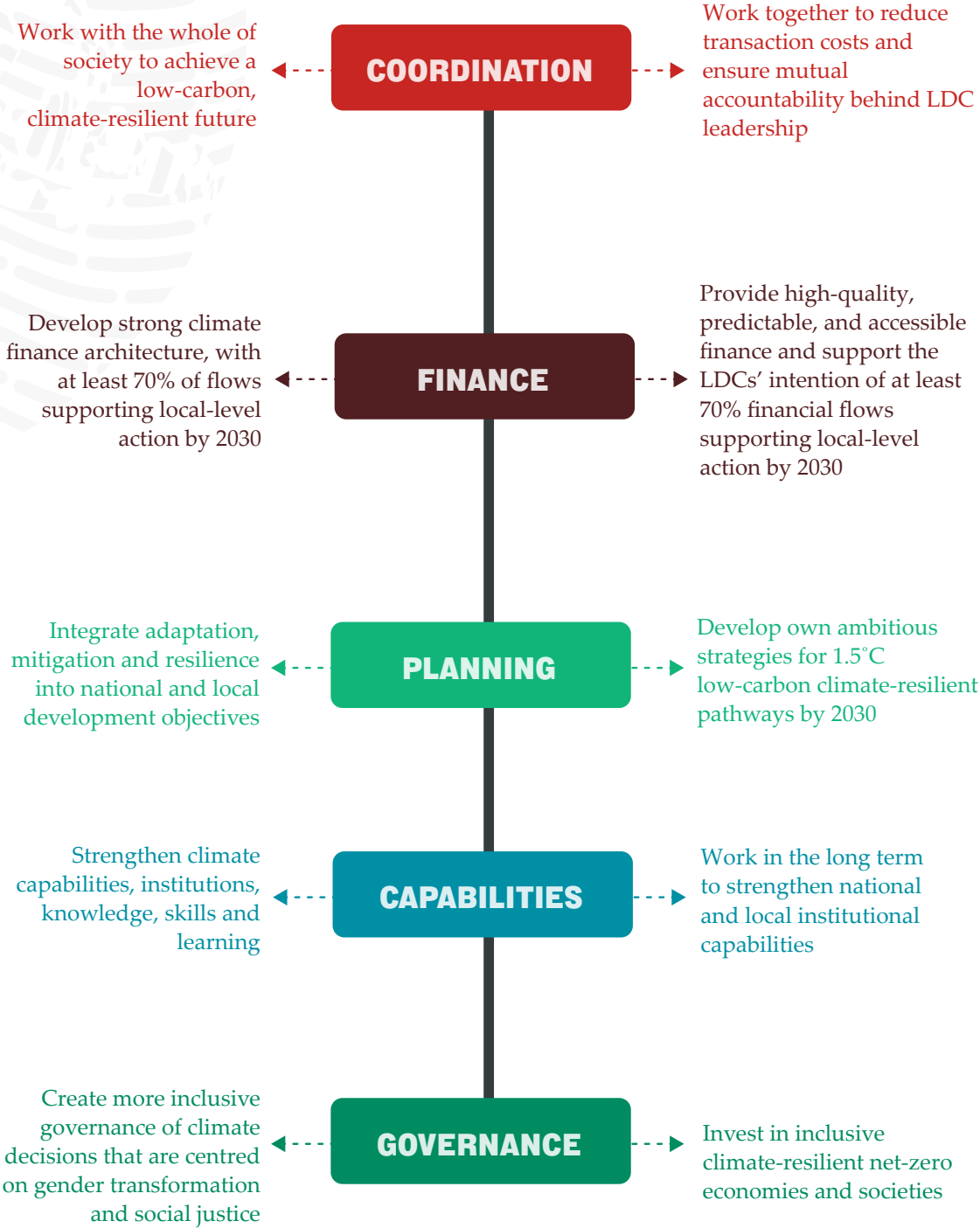


Figure 1 - The LDCs Asks and Offers

LIFE-AR seeks to strengthen country owned systems, institutions and capabilities for the long term and sustainable delivery of climate finance for adaptation. LIFE-AR has completed its initial three year “Establishment Phase” during which six “Front Runner Countries” (FRC),

Ethiopia, Bhutan, Malawi, Burkina Faso, The Gambia and Uganda established national “platforms” to govern and deliver LIFE-AR in each country. LIFE-AR is now expanding to a further four countries, drawing on the experiences and lessons learned.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION PRINCIPLES

The Locally-led Adaptation Principles were developed under the Global Commission for Adaptation through a co-design process bringing together the tacit knowledge and lived experience of over 50 partners over 2019-2020. They aim to ensure that communities are empowered to lead sustainable and effective adaptation to climate change at the local level. They draw on both evidence and practice of what works in delivering impact for climate vulnerable communities. Endorsed by over 130 government and non-government institutions and recognised as part of the Global Goal on Adaptation, the principles set standards for effective climate and development finance and delivery that will have lasting and transformative impact (see Figure 2). The challenge though is to change mindsets,

finance and delivery systems rooted in the dysfunctional, “business-as-usual” and top-down way of operating.

LIFE-AR takes up this challenge. The Business Unusual approach enables the time and freedom needed in each country to develop systems and capabilities for locally-led adaptation (LLA). At every stage, national country platforms have been explicit about how they are practicing a business unusual approach, demonstrating in real time how LLA can be put into practice.

This brochure summarises how the principles are being operationalised throughout LIFE-AR, each section detailing how a principle is implemented in LIFE-AR, and the potential for deepening its practice in the future.



Figure 2 - The Locally-Led Adaptation Principles



PRINCIPLE 1: DEVOLVING DECISION MAKING TO THE LOWEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL

Giving local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritised, designed and implemented; how progress is monitored, and how success is evaluated.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 1 IN LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR supports participating countries to identify and strengthen delivery mechanisms that invest at least 70% of climate finance behind community priorities for climate resilience building activities.

Front Runner Countries have decided to undertake the necessary national level buy-in and set up of governance platforms using a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, to identify and strengthen existing local delivery mechanisms. This includes local government planning and public financial management systems – the systems that provide funds to local government to facilitate local development. Innovations vary from country to country, but focus on strengthening systems to channel increased climate finance to devolved decision making institutions that include communities and representatives of marginalised groups fully in the process. Tools for integrating climate information and risk into planning, and tools for participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning, are also being tailored to each country's context.

PRINCIPLE 1 IN ACTION

A key innovation has been to enable local committees to plan against a known budget, enhancing autonomy, transparency, and their ability to prioritise effectively. For example, The Gambia is integrating into locally managed schemes that ensure communities are able to be paid to develop the schemes themselves as well as benefit from them once they are completed. Communities identify context appropriate resilience building investments, with community members able to receive payment in

return for their contribution to building it. In others, such as Uganda, the mechanism aims to strengthen the role intergovernmental fiscal transfers from national to local government play in financing and delivering locally-led adaptation investments.

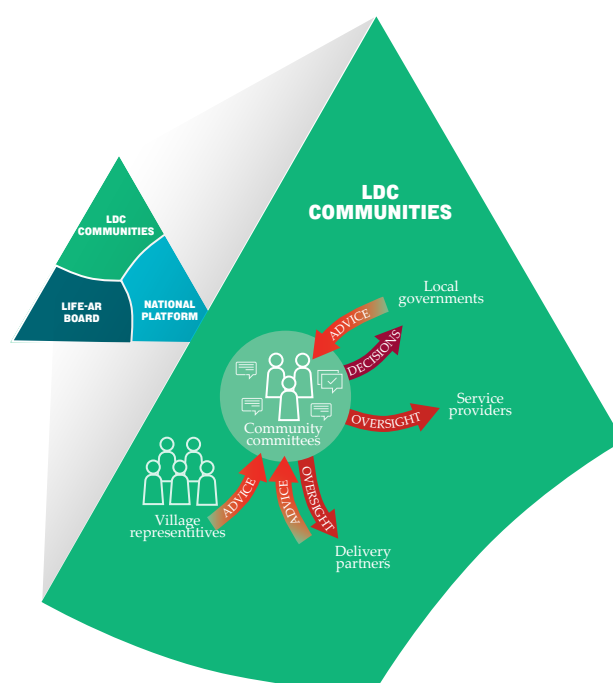


Figure 3 - Devolved decision making

BOX 2: DELIVERY MECHANISMS

In LIFE-AR, a delivery mechanism (DM) is an integrated system not only for delivering climate finance to the local level, but which also includes institutional arrangements that enables communities and the institutions that support them to deliver effective climate action. The DM includes the identification of inclusive and impactful investments that respond to climate risks, ensuring they are transparently and accountably funded, and assessing their effectiveness over time. Mechanisms can combine public, private and civil society institutions and are used to support the building of climate-resilient people, economies or ecosystems, or a mixture of all three.



PRINCIPLE 2: ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES FACED BY WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND MARGINALISED GROUPS

Integrating gender-based, economic and political inequalities that are root causes of vulnerability into the core of adaptation action and encouraging vulnerable and marginalised individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 2 IN LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR has a firm commitment through the LDC offer of inclusive governance to address gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) at all levels of climate action, international, national and local. The commitment is embedded in governance, finance delivery, monitoring, evaluation and learning and communications processes.

To support this commitment, the initiative has established a GESI working group dedicated to developing standard protocols that will guide the GESI mainstreaming procedures within each LIFE-AR country, taking into account the different national contexts. These protocols will be tested during delivery of climate action, and outcomes will generate learning that can be used to improve the protocols and share insights more widely. The learning process will also support country reporting on GESI to wider international processes such as the Global Stocktake and Sustainable Development Goals. The GESI principles are also embedded in the makeup of country national platforms and task teams (see figure 8, page 17).

PRINCIPLE 2 IN ACTION

The LIFE-AR Interim Secretariat monitors GESI performance by carefully reporting on gender balance and participation of men and women at various levels. These include the LIFE-AR global governance within the LIFE-AR Board, technical advisory panel and Interim Secretariat, at national level within the national platforms, and at local level in the establishment and implementation of finance delivery mechanisms. A strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis has been undertaken identifying some of the entry points to strengthen GESI in each FRC. A key part of the institutional strengthening taken on by countries is to develop capabilities to monitor and assess GESI performance themselves.

At local level, countries have drawn on locally-led committees, including men, women, people with disabilities and young people to identify resilience building investments as part of their finance delivery mechanisms. In Malawi, existing decision-making committees have been expanded to ensure they have appropriate representation of marginalised groups, while in Bhutan civil society organisations (CSOs) play an important part in reaching out to communities to ensure active engagement of all groups. The intention is also for countries developing training on their mechanisms to include key concepts such as structural exclusion, intersectionality and gender analysis.

CSOs are part of each national platform to ensure that community priorities have a better chance at being represented at each level of governance. CSOs can also be engaged at local level to ensure additional knowledge and representation is available when climate funds are allocated towards specific adaptation actions.

Efforts have also been made to promote inclusive communication strategies. These include provisions for translation at key events, localising materials and holding discussions into relevant languages, and using more accessible communications channels.

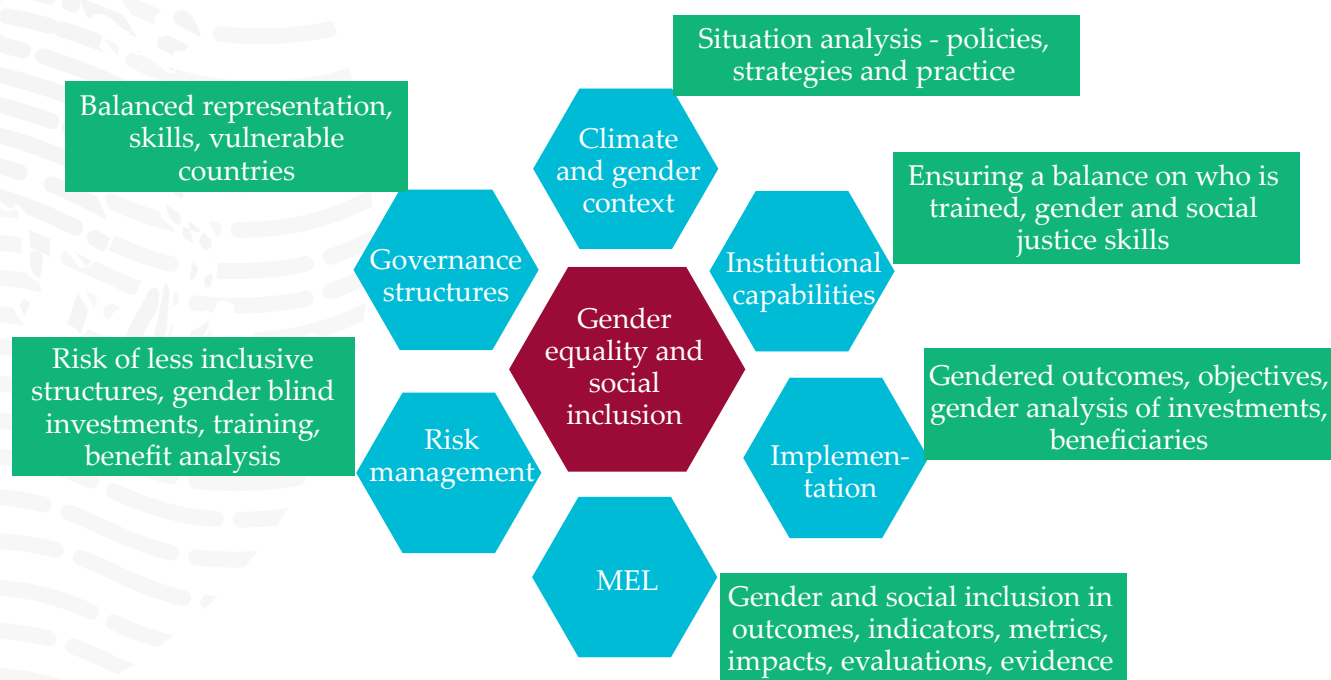


Figure 4 - GESI entry points



Woman watering her income-generating garden in Ninigui Village, Yatenga, Burkina Faso, credit: P. Casier/CGIAR



PRINCIPLE 3: PROVIDING PATIENT AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING THAT CAN BE ACCESSED MORE EASILY

Supporting long-term development of local governance processes, capacity and institutions through simpler access modalities and long term and more predictable funding horizons, to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 3 IN LIFE-AR

Systemic, transformational change takes time. LIFE-AR financial partners have committed to funding an initiative that lasts 10 years or more, focusing on a programme approach, aligned to country-driven priorities, rather than on siloed project approaches. This creates time for participating LDC ministries and departments to encourage diverse stakeholders to actively participate in the national platform and develop and test home grown initiatives that are fully embedded in country systems and processes. At local level, it creates the possibility of sustained funds for adaptation and the time to strengthen local institutions with the capabilities needed to access longer term climate finance. The LIFE-AR Interim Secretariat also supports countries to access wider finance sources including, international climate funds, multilateral development banks, and integrate them with domestic investments.

PRINCIPLE 3 IN ACTION

This approach enables LIFE-AR to be a catalyst for a systemic and long-term transition, rather than rushing to meet a donor set timeline for delivery of funds. This contrasts with many programmes with a three-to-five-year limit, which have much less chance of institutionalising the needed capabilities and to accessing long term climate finance.

Engagement with multilateral funds at the highest level, such as the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, provides additional avenues to share learnings from the initiative and advocate for longer term funding.

LIFE-AR will also establish an independent facility – an LDC-led, LDC-owned institution with the ability to influence how climate funds are allocated to LDCs, and to step away from the donor-dominated relationships of the past. This innovative approach will be a landmark in climate finance delivery.

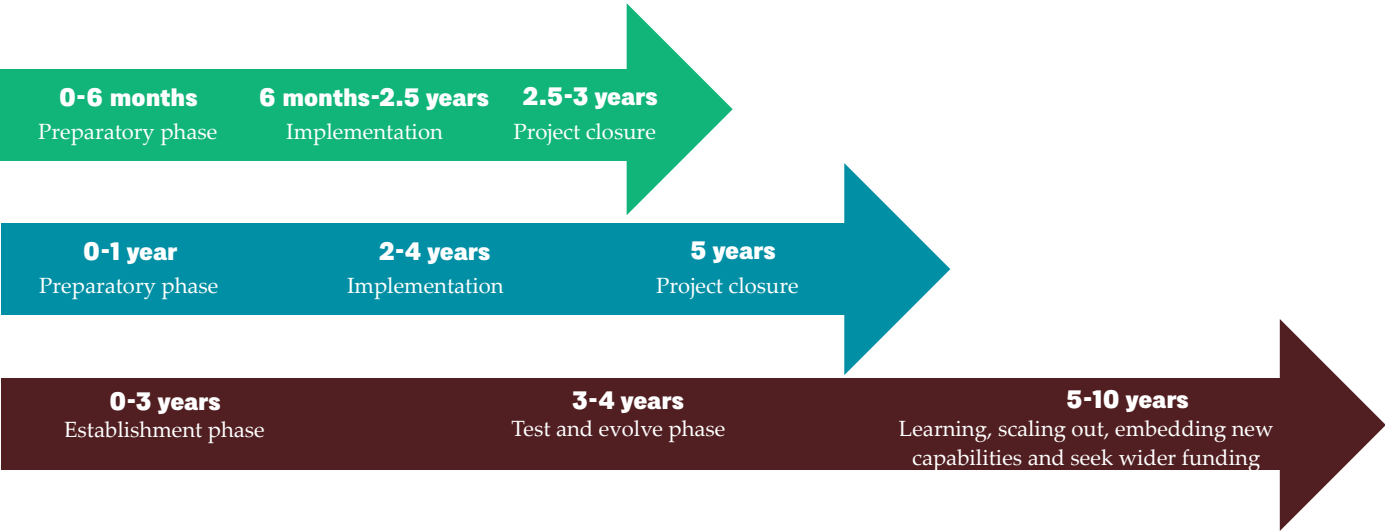


Figure 5 - LIFE-AR timeline compared to many typical funding initiatives



PRINCIPLE 4: STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPABILITIES AND LEAVING AN INSTITUTIONAL LEGACY

Improving the capabilities of local institutions to ensure they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, generate solutions and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 4 IN LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR aims to catalyse a country-led shift in how climate finance is accessed, governed and delivered. Moving away from “fly-in, fly-out” consultancy models or the establishment of specific project steering or coordination committees common in adaptation delivery, the initiative focuses on strengthening existing country systems, processes and institutions. This approach is more likely to be sustainable, utilising institutions that have existed for decades rather than creating new temporary structures for a specific project or initiative. LIFE-AR leverages the skills and knowledge already embedded in national platforms, their networks and academia, through collaborating with the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC – see Box 3). By only engaging consultants when necessary, and preferring in-country over international consultants, LIFE-AR prioritises and respects the in-depth knowledge acquired informally and formally by government, civil society organisations, academia and national institutions.



Communities voting for the Parish Climate Change Committee in Morulem

PRINCIPLE 4 IN ACTION

During the Establishment Phase, each country has undertaken a “situation analysis” to assess how LIFE-AR principles are currently being practiced through policy and programmes, using interviews and desk-based research led by country focal points. The analysis identified the best opportunities for effective, locally-led climate action and directly informs how LIFE-AR is taken forward in each country. Working groups comprising of government officials, academia, non-government experts and practitioners have led the design of delivery mechanisms to test them and strengthened national Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems to generate meaningful, actionable learning. With their in-depth knowledge of how delivery mechanisms should work, these working groups also provide a country led quality assurance function. In Burkina Faso, this work has been internalised, building capacity of the team, instead of relying on external consultants.

Countries are now training local authorities and communities to deliver LIFE-AR using their own expertise, language and resources. Front runners have engaged academic and government training institutions from the beginning, building their capabilities as trainers and quality assurance leads. This grounds a locus of knowledge about climate finance, climate risk and adaptation and grows the field of actors supporting delivery within each country.

BOX 3: LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE (LUCCC)

LUCCC is an LDC initiative that aims to foster a collaborative university network for research capacity and expertise on climate change in the LDCs. LUCCC academics have been included in all the front runner country platforms, through which they share knowledge as well as inform their own teaching and learning processes. In some countries, LUCCC university departments will support MEL of delivery mechanisms, as well as future training.



PRINCIPLE 5: BUILDING A ROBUST UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE RISK AND UNCERTAINTY

Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, Indigenous and scientific knowledge that can enable resilience under a range of future climate scenarios.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 5 IN LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR seeks to put LDCs on a pathway towards climate resilient landscapes, people and economies. This means that considerations of climate risk and uncertainty need to be integrated across government activities, including planning, budgeting, MEL and implementation systems. The [evidence review](#) used to identify delivery mechanism options for LDCs drew on evidence and expert advice on mechanisms that were able to incorporate different kinds of knowledge in the face of significant uncertainty.

PRINCIPLE 5 IN ACTION

The process of strengthening of delivery mechanisms for climate resilient landscapes, people and economies offered opportunities to improve understanding of climate risk and uncertainty within country institutions and communities. In Uganda meteorological agency staff have joined the task teams, supporting the design of the mechanism from an early stage. Efforts to link scientific information with community Indigenous knowledge and to co-produce agriculture advisories with community leaders are embedded in the decision-making process. Local governments, as is the case in Ethiopia, are also supported to develop communication strategies for dissemination of advisories to ensure they are widely accessed and can inform local decision making on investment priorities.

Countries like Malawi also used participatory climate vulnerability and capacity assessments to develop in depth understanding of how climate risks are experienced by different groups. In the case of Malawi, these assessments were conducted following an appraisal template which directly informed investment plans developed by local committees. The approach aims to closely reflect the specific challenges for men, women, children, people with disabilities or other vulnerable groups. Such assessments include participatory learning and action tools to draw out challenges raised by intersectional injustices. Assessments aim to identify climate solutions “robust” to several possible climate futures, reducing risks of maladaptation.

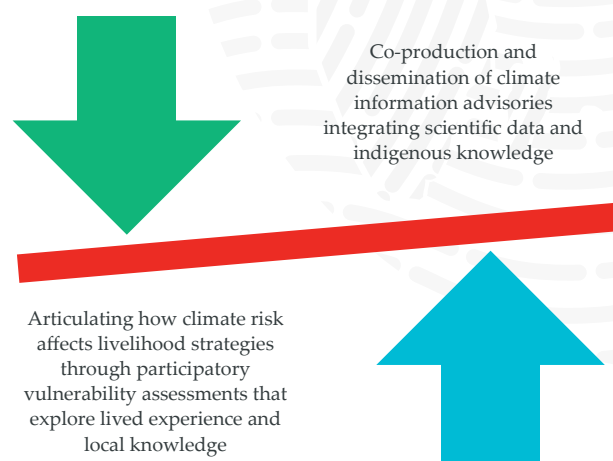
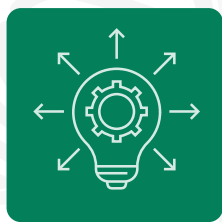


Figure 6 – Strengthening climate adaptation knowledge in communities



A girl wades through the water in Rwangara after floods, Uganda credit: Denis Onyodi/URCS



PRINCIPLE 6: FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMING AND LEARNING

Enabling adaptive management to address the inherent uncertainty in adaptation, especially through robust monitoring and learning systems, flexible finance and flexible programming.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 6 IN LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR's country-led approach enables countries to explore solutions, while working within their political and environmental context. This flexible, long term and learning driven methodology exposes country institutions to a different way of working. National platforms and task teams have freedom to operate in a context appropriate manner, developing greater capabilities to problem solve, test ideas and integrate learning.

To apply this approach, countries develop their own budgets and activities and have considerable leeway to make adjustments if circumstances change. This allows country focal points to apply their own deep knowledge and politically astute observations of how to make change in their own complex and unique institutions.

PRINCIPLE 6 IN ACTION

Considerable effort has been made to understand existing monitoring, evaluation and learning systems through MEL specific situation analysis and MEL working groups. Many country systems are already overburdened with reporting requirements, so LIFE-AR works with and enhances existing processes to make MEL more realistic and grounded in existing activities. For example, The Gambia recently adapted the LIFE-AR theory of change to the national context to serve as a building foundation for the development of its own LIFE-AR MEL systems and processes.

Learning on the relevance and effectiveness of the innovations introduced to strengthen countries' chosen delivery mechanisms is a key part of LIFE-AR. Each country begins with a pilot year, using it to test the premises behind the innovations introduced to strengthen mechanism, which will then inform following years. Participatory MEL approaches are a form of qualitative evaluation used to measure the progress and outcomes of a program/initiative. These approaches involve the active participation of stakeholders and beneficiaries in the assessment process either through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and observations, including Outcome Harvesting, Most Significant Change, Ripple Effect Mapping among many other approaches, that will directly engage communities in developing and then evaluating the criteria for success of each adaptation investment, using theories of change. Countries such as

Ethiopia have delivered training to local government authority staff to enable them to lead facilitation of MEL activities, with learning events to collect emerging knowledge and decide how to act on it.

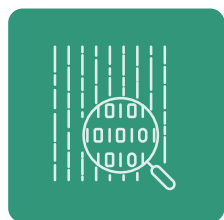


Working group sharing experience during the Peer-Learning event in Bhutan, July 2024

BOX 4: COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

LIFE-AR aims to establish communities of practice to facilitate learning and good practice between practitioners within and across countries. Those working to support delivery mechanisms at local level can form sub-national chapters of a wider national community of practice. Coordinators at national level facilitate sharing of best practice between local institutions, while also using learning to inform development of National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and future LIFE-AR Implementation.

International learning events enable lesson sharing across LIFE-AR Countries, with agendas shaped by participants both online and in-person. There is also the possibility of thematic communities of practice around specific areas – such as climate resilient planning, or MEL.



PRINCIPLE 7: ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Making processes of financing, designing and delivering programmes more transparent and downwardly accountable to local stakeholders.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 7 IN LIFE-AR

Transparency and Accountability runs through all LIFE-AR's activities from international to local level, to reduce transaction costs and embed the principle of mutual accountability. The LIFE-AR Board has donor and LDC representatives making decisions together, able to hold each other accountable for delays in funding or delivery.

PRINCIPLE 7 IN ACTION

The country-led approach to driving systems change creates greater opportunities for accountability than donor driven programmes through international intermediaries. Working groups established to design the delivery of climate finance consist entirely of representatives of country institutions. The mechanisms they are designing include specific plans for embedding downward accountability. For example, Uganda plans to

institutionalise monthly community meetings – known as “barazas”, where the Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) will report directly to communities on activities carried out against the budget to enable communities to understand and assess how climate finance is being delivered. Community representatives are also engaged in the procurement process for service delivery, demonstrating potential accountability and transparency improvements that can be replicated elsewhere.

LIFE-AR will also test a concept of “radical transparency”, which aims to provide upward and downward accountability and transparency to explore how it adds value and can be tested for institutionalisation more widely. This means that governments and implementers will actively share information in formats that are accessible to communities and communities will report and share information at national level. For example in Uganda, sensitisation activities use local language and the preferred media to reach communities is local radios, and report from field activities are disseminated on social media and in English.

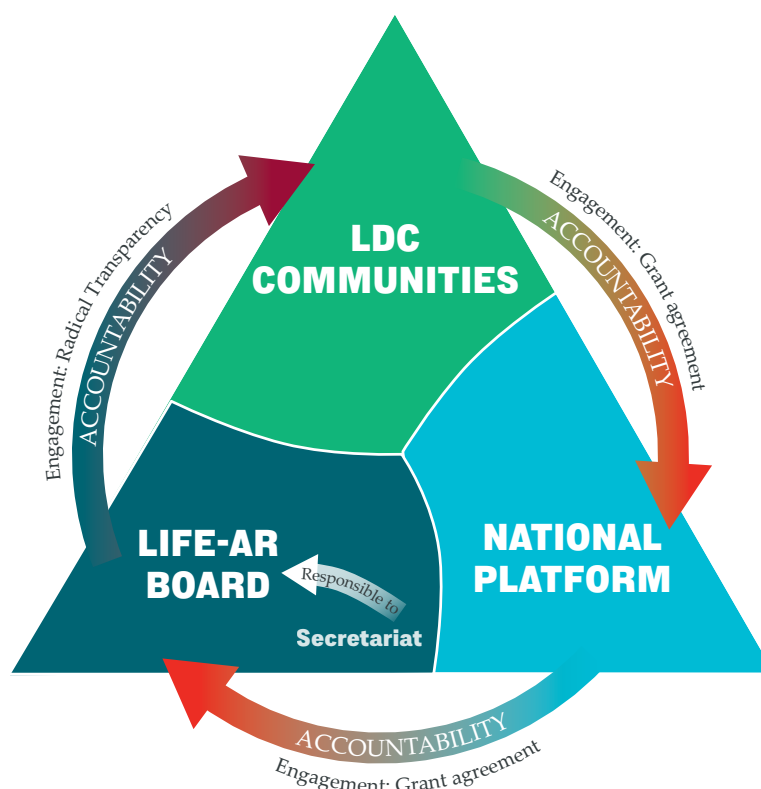


Figure 7 - LIFE-AR accountability framework

Real time reporting on the quality and delivery of services of investments, potentially using digital tools will be explored. In contrast to most other programmes, donors also report to the LDCs on how they are implementing the

LDC “asks” – demonstrating a more equitable approach. LIFE-AR will seek to use transparency and accountability as a tool to make visible the way in which power relations shape decisions.



Growing climate ready crops. Bean diversity helps farmers tackle climate change credit: Georgina Smith / CIAT



PRINCIPLE 8: COLLABORATIVE ACTION AND INVESTMENT

Collaboration across sectors, initiatives and levels to ensure that different sources of funding (humanitarian assistance, development, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds and so on) support one another, and their activities avoid duplication, to enhance efficiencies and good practice.

COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 8 IN LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR's whole-of-society approach is the idea that delivering the LDC Vision in each country will require multiple perspectives, expertise and skills working together. Breaking siloed thinking requires multiple sectoral government departments to collaborate on shared objectives, with the engagement of academia, local governments and institutions, civil society and the private sector. LIFE-AR does not offer funding for proscribed projects or for development of a particular sector. Instead, investments are decided by the community and reflect their holistic view of local needs that transcend sectoral limitations. This improves collaboration as government sectors through LIFE-AR can work together to deliver on these priorities.

PRINCIPLE 8 IN ACTION

The country task teams have taken a proactive approach to integrate different expertise and viewpoints, reduce the risk of duplication and actively seek synergies with other programmes. They set up or expanded existing mechanisms to include representatives from ministries or departments of finance, water, agriculture, planning, local government and meteorological agencies, as well as academia and civil society organisations. This whole-of-society approach corresponds to a unique commitment from LDCs to prioritise climate change at the national level and ensure horizontal and vertical integration across multiple levels and sectors.

An important early process during the establishment phase for each country was to map LIFE-AR systems and governance monitoring and evaluation indicators with global frameworks such as the NAPs, NDCs, Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biodiversity indicators, to contribute to wider government learning beyond LIFE-AR and to avoid duplication.

Additionally, LIFE-AR serves as a platform for collaboration with LDCs and other parts of the international community to address the problematic power dynamics that undermine effective adaptation and resilience. With the support of the LDC Chair and the LDC Climate Group and through public engagement in major international events such as the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, the initiative seeks to influence climate finance mechanisms towards integrating the LDCs Asks and Offers in the long term.

LIFE-AR has established a group of LDC Advisers – experts from LDCs with experience of delivering climate action in practice, many of whom are active negotiators and practitioners today. Advisers support learning and share experiences as required by each country.

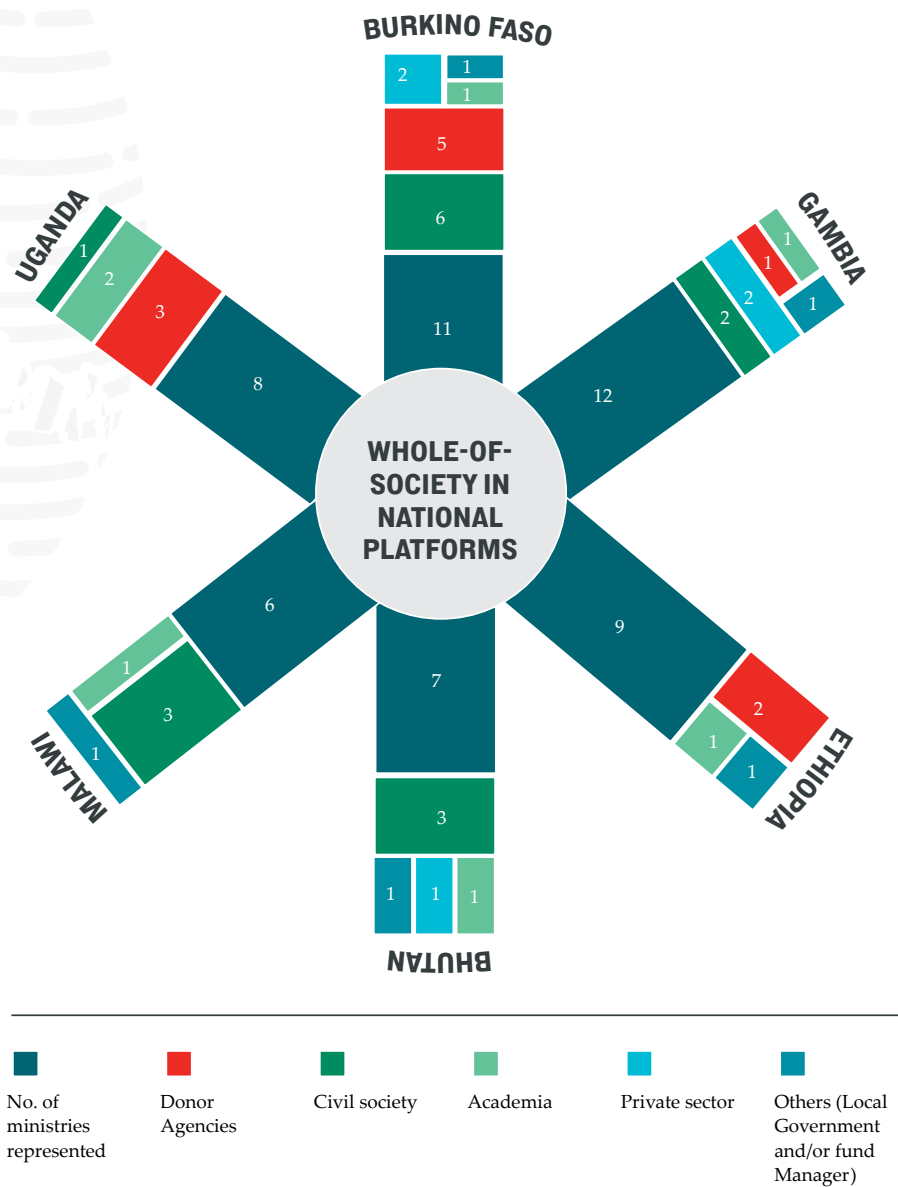


Figure 8 - Representation within LIFE-AR National platforms

CONCLUSION: A LONG-TERM SHIFT IN APPROACHES TO ADAPTATION ACTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

LIFE-AR is a unique initiative seeking to spark a transformation in how LDCs finance, develop, deliver and learn from long term adaptation and resilience efforts. It offers countries much needed time, flexibility and ownership over the process of embedding LLA principles and capabilities into multiple institutions in support of durable solutions.

In time, these efforts create the conditions for countries to access the kind of scaled up resources needed to address growing climate risks.

As each country is taking a unique approach, there are also tremendous opportunities for deepening understanding of how LLA can work in practice – the skills, processes, institutions and practical systemic shifts required. These learning processes create a community of LDC practitioners from local to global level, further cementing the LDCs as leaders in climate adaptation. This diverse set of practitioners with direct experience of putting LLA principles into practice are becoming part of a movement with wider expertise on how to create transformative change.

The “whole-of-society” approach in which different kinds of institution are given the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences in response to live problems enables new innovations that are home grown and specific to each country. Through LIFE-AR, countries can

craft an approach to operationalising the LLA principles that suits local contexts and political realities, at a pace that is realistic.

To support LIFE-AR, countries can join the [Partnership Compact](#). The Compact creates a new relationship between donor and recipient countries, based on principles of equality, mutual support and flexibility.

LIFE-AR is also calling for commitments from all development partners to shift to long term funding for LDCs to invest meaningfully in transforming their systems for planning, accessing finance, learning and decision making. This transformation must be shaped by each country, taking an approach suited to local contexts, and therefore takes a patient, flexible, learning informed approach.

By investing in LIFE-AR, funders create the conditions for embedding LLA into systems of government fit for addressing the climate crisis.



Madagascar joining LIFE-AR at COP28



Lake village of Ganvie, Benin

 @LDC_LIFEAR
 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/life-ar>

The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) is a long-term LDC-led, LDC-owned initiative which aims to enhance climate resilience.

LDC
CLIMATE CHANGE

LIFE-AR is in the interim hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and supported by the UK International Development from the UK Government, Irish Aid, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada and the US Department of State.

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