

Briefing note

Policy brief:

Developing a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework which can support the creation of decentralised Climate Information Services:

Learning from the WISER Western project in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya

Authors:

Emma Visman (VNG Consulting/King's College London), Brian Oduor (CARE International Kenya), Ayub Shaka (Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Calistus Wachana (KMD), Mwende Kusewa (CARE International Kenya), George Gibson (Met Office), and (Sheri Lim (CARE UK).

More information on the WISER Western project can be found on the WISER [webpages](#).

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Introduction

A policy brief has been developed using learning from the WISER Decentralised Climate Information Services for Decision Making in Western Kenya (WISER Western Kenya) project. The policy brief outlines the key elements of a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework which can support the development of decentralised Climate Information Services (CIS). It draws on project experience to examine how the framework supports tracking of impact across actors and forms of collaboration and identifies learning transferable to other initiatives to develop decentralised CIS. This briefing note provides an overview of the content of the policy brief which can be viewed in full [here](#).

Summary

Developing decentralised Climate Information Services (CIS) is a process entailing a wide range of actors and forms of collaboration. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) frameworks which can effectively track this process are essential to demonstrate the benefits and build support for the increased investment which the development of these services requires. To ensure sustainability, it is equally vital to mainstream capacities and responsibilities for MEL within national and decentralised planning and budgeting systems.

The full policy brief identifies transferable learning about the type of MEL framework required to support the creation of decentralised CIS. It draws on experiences from WISER Western Kenya, a one-year project led by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), CARE and the Met Office and focused on developing climate services in nine counties of the Lake Victoria region in Kenya, as well as a number of complementary initiatives.

The policy brief outlines the approach and principles underpinning the development of decision-relevant climate information, the project context, the MEL framework developed by the project and the changes which this framework enabled it to track, together with required next steps in the project's development. The final section identifies transferable learning in creating frameworks to measure the impact of investing in decentralised services.

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The project has developed a number of materials which can support integration and scale up of MEL for CIS in Kenya and the wider region. These include:

- the project MEL framework;
- a guide for developing county (or decentralised) Climate Information Services Plans;
- a number of tools to support the establishment of baselines for decentralised CIS, including guidelines for assessing how climate risks have been and could be better integrated within cross-sectoral county (or decentralised) development planning and a set of questionnaires to scope the development of a CIS communications strategy; and
- a series of tools and methodologies to support local monitoring of CIS, including a monthly reporting template and a questionnaire enabling regular seasonal review amongst key stakeholders.

Key elements of a MEL framework for decentralised CIS

Recognising the process of co-producing decision-relevant information, the WISER Western Kenya project's MEL framework identified the need to create a baseline and monitor changes across the steps of strengthening: (1) the production of, (2) access to, (3) understanding and (4) use of CIS within each of the participating counties. The framework outlined the process of: establishing the project baseline, ongoing monitoring and end-of-project evaluation, while opportunities for ongoing learning and review were integrated throughout the process.

The key monitoring mechanism developed was the County Meteorological Office (CMO)'s monthly reporting template. Reflexive learning was supported through project partner review meetings, to which key stakeholder organisations were invited. Iterative, looped learning was supported through strengthening County Climate Outlook Forums (CCOFs) and feedback mechanisms, and seeking opportunities to integrate monitoring of CIS within existing complementary initiatives. Social learning was supported through developing a range of resources intended to support national and wider scale up.

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