



# Rwanda's experience in developing and implementing its Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system for adaptation in the agriculture, human settlement and transport sectors

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# Background and context

- With the technical and financial support of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Rwanda has implemented a pilot work program to operationalize a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework for adaptation in the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the agriculture sector.
- The work program started in April 2022 and covered the period until February 2023 **(Phase 1)**.
- In September 2023, the NAP Global Network has continued supporting the Government of Rwanda in establishing its adaptation MEL system focusing on human settlement and transport sectors **(Phase 2)**.

# The main steps Rwanda has taken to build its MEL system for the NAP process

Steps	Description
1	Understanding the policy context
2	Defining the purpose and focus of the MEL framework
3	Identifying indicators to track adaptation in a given sector
4	Identifying the sources and type of data and information required for each indicator
5	Developing an institutional framework for adaptation in a given sector
6	Operationalizing the MEL system by providing credible information on adaptation in a given sector and enabling the integration of learning into planning and decision-making.

# The current status of the MEL system in Rwanda

- ❖ The first phase, completed in February 2023, collected data on NDC adaptation indicators in the agriculture sector and reported on progress from MINAGRI **using a quantitative data collection template and qualitative case studies to assess outcomes.**
- ❖ The MEL pilot's initial phase was completed **with data and information tracked by the Government of Rwanda, and the lessons learned were shared.**
- ❖ **Four briefing notes on the agriculture sector** (context, content, operationalization, and learning and communication) have been produced and are now available on the NAP-GN website.
- ❖ **Three briefing notes** were produced on two case studies in agriculture and human settlement sector, as well as data and information collection and management on the human settlement and transport sectors. These will be available on the NAP-GN website.
- ❖ Maintaining the tracking and analysis of adaptation data in the agriculture sector.

# The main challenges and how Rwanda has overcome them

Main challenges	Operational implication	Possible solution
<p>The challenges encountered have encompassed <b>a lack of technical capacity and insufficient resources</b></p>	<p><b>Poor data quality negatively impacts the reliability</b> of monitoring and evaluation, resulting in ineffective adaptation measures</p>	<p>A mixed strategy involves using <b>secondary quantitative data from authoritative institutions, such as NISR and MINAGRI MIS, and conducting case studies for qualitative data.</b></p>
<p><b>Funding and Resource Allocation:</b> Consistent funding is crucial for the operationalization of MEL systems. <b>MEL activities often compete with immediate adaptation needs for limited resources</b></p>	<p>Inadequate funding can lead to interrupted or <b>incomplete data collection and analysis</b>, reducing the effectiveness of adaptation strategies.</p>	<p>Rwanda has actively sought <b>international partnerships and funding to support MEL systems</b>, along with developing budget allocations within national funding frameworks. This includes initiatives such as the <b>Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU)</b></p>

# Lessons learnt

- ❖ **The NDC includes indicators, although they may not always be SMART indicators.** Baseline data and available information and targets are included as well. **Measurement of the expected outcome requires qualitative data.** Typically, **data disaggregated by gender is not available.**
- ❖ **Achieving outputs or targets in short-term does not always mean meeting the outcome or achieving the underlying goal in the long-term.**
- ❖ The MEL work programme has shown that **the GoR can gather information on NDC adaptation indicators in the agriculture, human settlement and transport sectors and report on progress on outputs using a quantitative data collection template.** It is also capable of conducting an initial assessment of outcomes through qualitative case studies.
- ❖ Differences exist **across various sectors, such as agriculture, human settlement, and transport.** It is important to note that what works in one sector, like agriculture (e.g. MIS), may not necessarily be effective in another sector, such as human settlement or transport. **Each sector has its own unique characteristics, and the implementation of MEL will largely depend on a clear identification and mapping of potential data sources.**