

The eight principles of Locally Led Adaptation

The IFRC endorsed the principles for LLA developed by the Global Center on Adaptation in 2021. These principles offer ground rules for initiatives that enable locally led, sustainable and effective adaptation.

The principles are not only about climate but also seek to empower vulnerable and marginalized groups in communities and give them a voice in designing and prioritizing adaptation solutions while achieving transparency in funding and decision-making.

Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level

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

Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, disabled and displaced people, indigenous people, and marginalized ethnic groups

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

Providing predictable funding with longer horizons that can be accessed more easily

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

Investing in local capabilities as institutional legacy

Helping local institutions 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.

Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty

Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, indigenous and scientific knowledge to enable resilience assuming a range of future climate scenarios.

Flexible programming and learning

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

Ensuring transparency and accountability

Making the financing, designing and delivering of programmes more transparent and accountable downward to local stakeholders.

Collaborative action and investment

Collaboration across sectors, initiatives and levels to ensure funding – including humanitarian, development, risk reduction, and recovery – is coherent and avoids duplication.