

Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia Project

Brief Component-2



A partnership between ADPC, RIMES, and the World Bank to support informed decision-making for protecting development gains in South Asia

Background

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Over 1.9 billion people living in South Asian countries share mountains, rivers, oceans, and energy sources on one hand and climate change vulnerabilities on the other. A World Bank study has warned that, without climate change adaptation, 800 million (or 44 percent) people in South Asia will be living in moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050 which will push millions of people below the poverty line.

South Asia is an agrarian society with 70% of the region's population employed in the agriculture sector. Even though 31% of the world's rice and 18% of its wheat grow in South Asia, the region has the most undernourished people. Hunger will increase dramatically in the region if food production is not doubled in the next 25 years.

Water scarcity will adversely impact the agriculture sector, further exacerbating food insecurity. A World Bank report, "South Asia Climate Change Risks in Water Management" highlights water management as the most crucial development challenge in South Asia for sustaining growth. Both water paucity and demand are increasing at an unprecedented rate in the region, with irrigation accounting for 80% of the groundwater extraction. Agriculture's reliance on groundwater irrigation is already exacerbating water stress.

Researchers have suggested that building road infrastructure that is not properly planned and designed can cause either flooding or drought leading to potential problems such as waterlogging and sedimentation. Non-resilient infrastructure is more likely to be washed away by a flood. Consequently, agricultural products cannot reach urban areas, and life-saving health services cannot reach villages.

The nexus of agriculture, water, and transport infrastructure in relation to climate change calls for concerted efforts to increase investment in these sectors. Mainstreaming climate adaptation into the agriculture, water, and transport sectors can foster climate-resilient development and enhance food security, safety and people's economic well-being.

The lack of climate-informed planning, budgeting, and investment can intensify current challenges putting more people at risk. Therefore, it is crucial to engage with finance and planning ministries and provide them with information, tools, and guidelines so that adequate risk assessments can become part of standard investment designs.

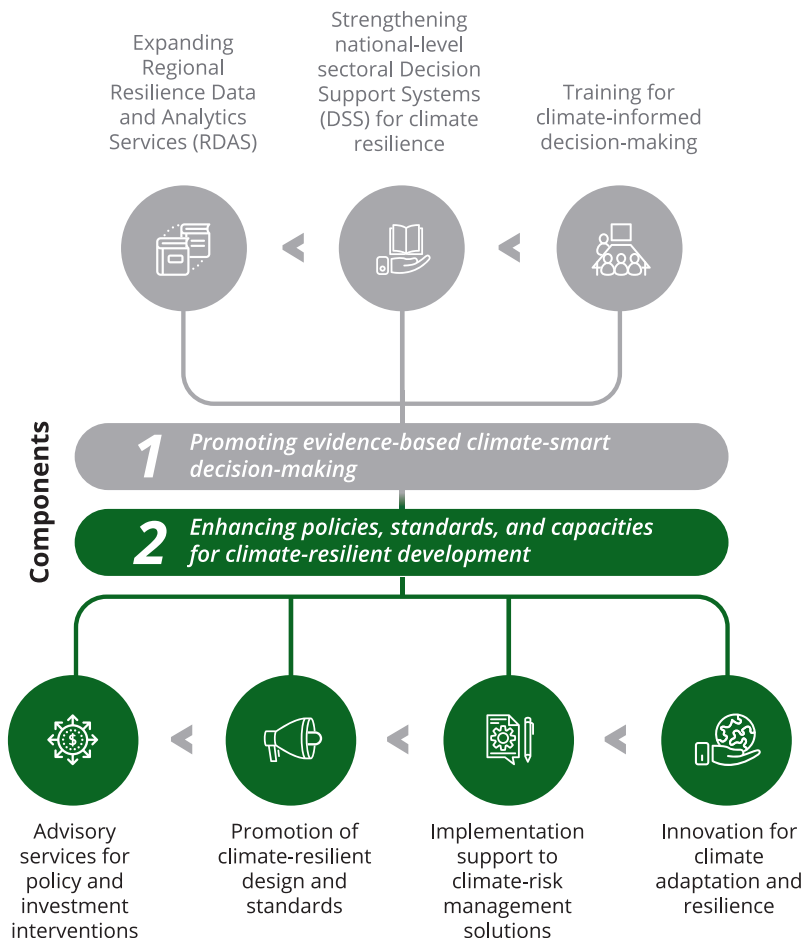
Overview of CARE for South Asia project

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) are jointly implementing a five-year (2020-2025) regional project called **Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia** with support from the World Bank.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to an enabling environment for climate resilience policies and investments in agriculture, transport, water, policy & planning, and finance sectors in South Asia.

Initially, the national-level activities will be implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

The project has two parallel but distinct components: RIMES is implementing the first component which focuses on promoting evidence-based climate smart decision-making; ADPC is implementing the second component which focuses on enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient development in South Asia.



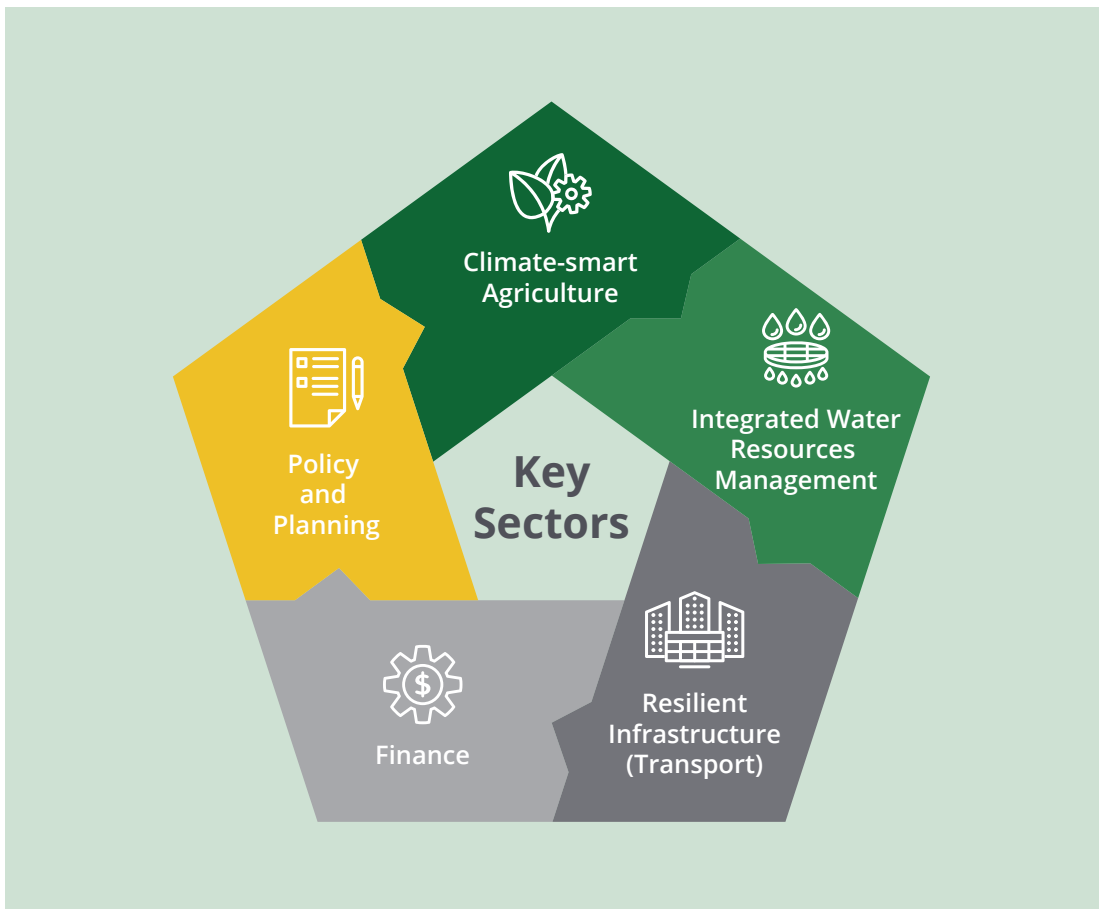
This document outlines the second component of the CARE for South Asia project.

Enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient development

The second component of the project will promote the transformation of policies and institutional capacities for climate-resilient development in agriculture, transport, integrated water resources management, policy & planning, and finance in South Asia.

Anchored in building on the governments' plans, the project will facilitate national institutions to meet commitments under the various global frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ADPC will facilitate high-level dialogues, develop climate-resilient guidelines in the priority sectors, and promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology at national and regional levels.



Regional Interventions

Knowledge-sharing and policy dialogues

Enhancing South-South learning and knowledge-sharing on climate adaptation and resilience at the regional level is the cornerstone of the CARE for South Asia project.

ADPC will facilitate the regional dialogue to catalyze planning, policy reforms, and investments under the auspices of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC), a regional platform promoting peer advocacy and exchange of expertise in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience across Asia and the Pacific. A regional non-binding cooperation platform, RCC is comprised of National Disaster Management Organizations from over 20 member countries; ADPC serves as its Secretariat.

Interaction between South Asian countries in climate-sensitive sectors will invigorate collaboration, introduce innovations, and foster knowledge and technology-sharing. The regional level dialogue will contribute to reducing the transboundary impacts of climate change and addressing common adaptation challenges.

Guidelines on climate resilience

ADPC will develop regional climate-resilient guidelines for the priority sectors according to national and sectoral contexts. The guidelines will include benchmarking to transform sectoral standards, policies, planning and investments. Expert working groups for each sector established at the regional level will facilitate dissemination of knowledge and support the preparation of the regional guidelines.

Innovation for climate adaptation and resilience

ADPC will also promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology in South Asia by awarding grants to eligible innovators. It will provide start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), cooperatives and women-led organizations with an opportunity to operationalize upstream support at a grassroots level.



Source: Freepik.com

Country-level Interventions

Advisory services for policy and investment interventions

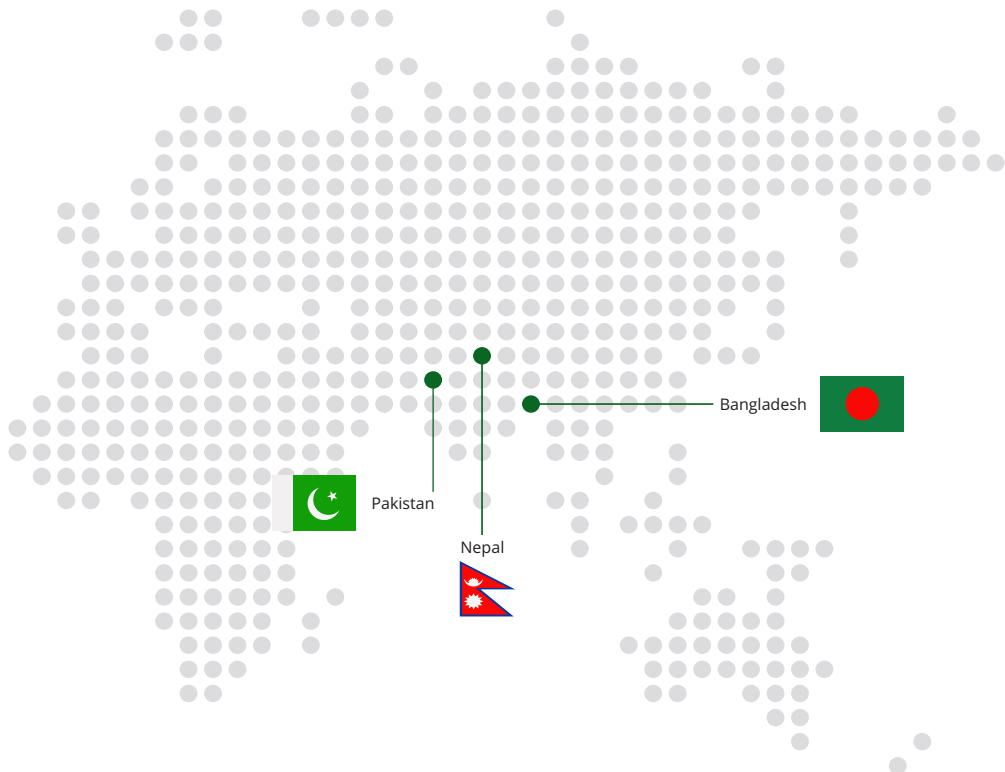
Advisory services will help strengthen evidence-based resilient policies, strategies, and investment plans for climate-smart agriculture, integrated water resources management, and resilient investments in select countries. The component will also assist in integrating climate adaptation in the transport/road infrastructure sector in Bangladesh and Nepal.

ADPC will provide support to ministries of finance and planning to prioritize climate resilience in policy, planning, and budgeting. This will include helping to design a strong performance-oriented domestic budget which integrates climate risks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefits from international and private financial flows.

The knowledge support will also be extended to implement priorities under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and country-driven plans under the Paris Agreement. All interventions will be underpinned by a smooth flow of information, best practices, and awareness-raising.

A comprehensive policy, institutional and public expenditure analysis will be carried out in select countries to integrate climate risk management into sectoral policies and action plans. The analysis will lead to developing or strengthening evidence-based resilient policies, strategies, actions, and investment plans in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Based on the analysis, the project will assist governments in developing investment plans for scaling-up existing structural climate resilient measures, strengthening strategic and policy frameworks for climate smart agriculture and integrated water resources management, and integrating gender-informed resilience into sectoral strategies.





Promotion of climate-resilient design and standards

In view of the climate change and other long-term trends, existing standards need to be revised and updated more regularly for key sectors. Under the CARE for South Asia Project, ADPC will support the modification of existing climate resilience national standards and regulations in the priority sectors. In the agriculture sector, for example, ADPC will develop country-specific guidance documents on climate-smart agriculture by detailing Agro-Climatic Zoning and climate-smart agriculture practices.

Implementation support to climate-risk management solutions

The project will enhance stakeholders' capacities to absorb scientific information and utilize guidelines to achieve climate adaptation. ADPC will train stakeholders on climate-resilience adaptive policymaking, investment planning, design, and implementation in priority sectors across the region and select countries.

Supporting climate research and development through collaboration with academic institutions, ADPC will institute Train-the-Trainer programs to disseminate climate-smart agriculture technologies and services. It will also provide training for community-based organizations, including cooperatives and women's groups, to plan, design, construct and manage community infrastructure that is resilient to climate and disaster risks.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is an autonomous international organization that works to build the resilience of people and institutions to disasters and climate change impacts in Asia and the Pacific. Established in 1986, it provides comprehensive technical services to countries in the region across social and physical sciences to support sustainable solutions for risk reduction and climate resilience. ADPC supports countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific in building their DRR systems, institutional mechanisms and capacities to become resilient to numerous hazards, such as floods, landslides, earthquake, cyclones, droughts, etc.

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