Module 4.4: Developing a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
What you will learn in this module:

- Initial steps to take before developing a RVA
- Key aspects to include in a RVA
Initial steps before the development of an RVA

1. Setting up a team
2. Identifying Stakeholders
3. Desktop research
Prior to commencing with the development of your RVA, it is important to set up a team that will develop the RVA. These should include:

- An RVA development lead
- Her/his team to collect data and compile the RVA

These can be from within the municipal team or external sub-contractors

Expertise of the team may include:

- Gender
- Livelihoods
- Climate change adaptation
Identifying Stakeholders

Prior to commencing with the development of your RVA, it is also important to identify several key stakeholders who will support the development process. These should include:

- Representatives of each sector within the local government (e.g. water, energy, transport etc.);
- Representatives of populations groups such as women, children and the elderly
1. Once the team is established and stakeholders are identified, it is important to gather as much information as possible prior to commencing with the RVA to build on existing work.

2. Key information to gather initially could include:

   • Detail on historical climate
   • What adaptation work or plans have been undertaken to date (is there existing work that you could build on?)
Key aspects to include in an RVA

1. Methodology used
2. Local government context
3. Current national and local adaptation commitments and stakeholders
4. Historical and projected climate change data
5. Current climate hazards experienced
6. Key sectors and population groups impacted by current climate hazards
7. Anticipated climate hazards
Key aspects to include in an RVA

8. Anticipated sectors, services and population groups impacted by future climate hazards
9. Factors that support or challenge adaptive capacity
Methodology to develop a RVA

- The most common method for obtaining the information required in a RVA is through participatory workshops.

- For the sections relating to data on historical and projected climate change, the services of a climate/ meteorological expert could be considered for localised information.

- A population survey could also be conducted on a representative sample of the population.
1. Description of the local government as well as information on its location, geography, official boundary and land area (this should ideally be accompanied by a map).

2. Information on the state of the built environment (roads, infrastructure, housing etc.)

3. Information on the current and projected population for the next five, 10 and 20 years broken down by sex, age, and other locally relevant identity markers.
4. Overview of the area’s key economic sectors and socio-economic status.

5. Additional relevant information on gender roles, culture, etc.
Current national and local adaptation commitments

1. Current national and local adaptation commitments such as NDC, climate change plans, local development plans.

2. Information about the Mayor or equivalent legal representative authority including their term length and start and end month and year.

3. Relevant stakeholders for adaptation planning and overview of city mandate.

4. Identify any gender legislation, policy and strategies.
Historical and projected climate change information

• Overview of climate trends experienced across the country and the city for at least the past 30 years (temperature and rainfall)

• Overview of how the current climate trends experienced across the country are projected to change (temperature and rainfall)

• Include detail on all data sources

• Open source tool for local climate change trends: Climate Information Portal
Current climate hazards experienced

1. The RVA should highlight the most significant climate hazards faced in the local government’s jurisdiction (sea-level rise, flood, drought...).

2. It should also include an overview of the current risk level (both probability and consequence) associated with each hazard as well as its social consequences and who is potentially impacted by said risks.
Key sectors, services and population groups impacted by current climate hazards

1. The RVA should indicate all relevant population groups, sectors, assets or services most impacted by current climate hazards affecting the local government.

2. It should also indicate the magnitude of impact of each hazard on each sector. This will highlight the sectors currently most at risk to climate impacts currently being experienced.
Women and marginalised groups experience acute and differential impacts of hazards. These impacts exacerbate existing inequities in socially constructed roles, responsibilities, perceptions and skewed power relations that tend to disadvantage these groups.
Anticipated future climate hazards

1. Once the current hazards and their impacts on various sectors and vulnerable groups has been established, the RVA should provide detail on how climate change will likely affect the intensity, frequency and timescale of each hazard (as a result of climate change).

2. The expected change in frequency and intensity is typically measured on a scale of ‘Increase’, ‘Decrease’, ‘No Change’ and ‘Not Known’.

3. The timescale for the expected changes is typically measured as ‘Immediately’, ‘Short-term’ (by 2025), ‘Medium-term’ (2026-2050), ‘Long-term’ (after 2050) and ‘Not Known’.
Anticipated sectors, services and population groups impacted by future climate hazards

1. The RVA should indicate the sectors, assets or services as well as the vulnerable populations that are expected to be impacted by future climate hazards.

2. It should indicate the anticipated magnitude of expected future impacts.

3. It should also provide a description of climate hazards experienced so far and how the hazard is expected to impact the city in the future.
 Factors that support or challenge adaptive capacity

1. The final consideration that should be included in the RVA are factors that support and/or challenge a local government’s adaptive capacity.

2. The RVA should also include a description on how each factor supports and/or challenges a local government’s adaptive capacity (ex. access to basic services).
CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox

4.4: Developing a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Please note:
This module has been designed for local government officials and partners who are developing their SEACAP.

This module is one component of the SEACAP Toolbox. For the full Toolbox, please visit: https://comssa.org/
CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox

Published by:
The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA)
c/o Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Author: ICLEI Africa

For more information contact: helpdesk@comssa.org
Publication date: November 2020
The full SEACAP Toolbox is found here: https://comssa.org/

© 2020 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The SEACAP Toolbox has been produced with the financial support of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its content is the sole responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and the German ministry.
CoM SSA programme is jointly implemented by:

CoM SSA programme is co-funded by:

The CoM SSA programme is co-implemented by [Name and abbreviation of the partner] and, in cooperation with other CoM SSA partners, Secretariat and, Technical Helpdesk. This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union, [the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation]. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the [MSO] and, do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union [or the other co-funder].
Thank you

Find out more: http://comssa.org
Contact: helpdesk@comssa.org