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Netherlands × U.S.
Dialogue on Governance Capacity for
Extreme Heat

Part 2: 11:30 – 12:15

Where are we now?

How are our heat governance systems built up?

Assess the Maturity of Your Extreme Heat Risk Governance

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Governance

The system of rules, processes, structures, and practices used to direct, manage, and control an organization, country, or institution.

How decisions are made, who makes them, who is responsible, and how people are held accountable.

Session Flow



Purpose of Assessment

Why a maturity self-assessment is the entry point to actions



Four maturity stages

From isolated action to mature heat governance



Evaluation

Six questions (12/20 Done)



Results into next steps

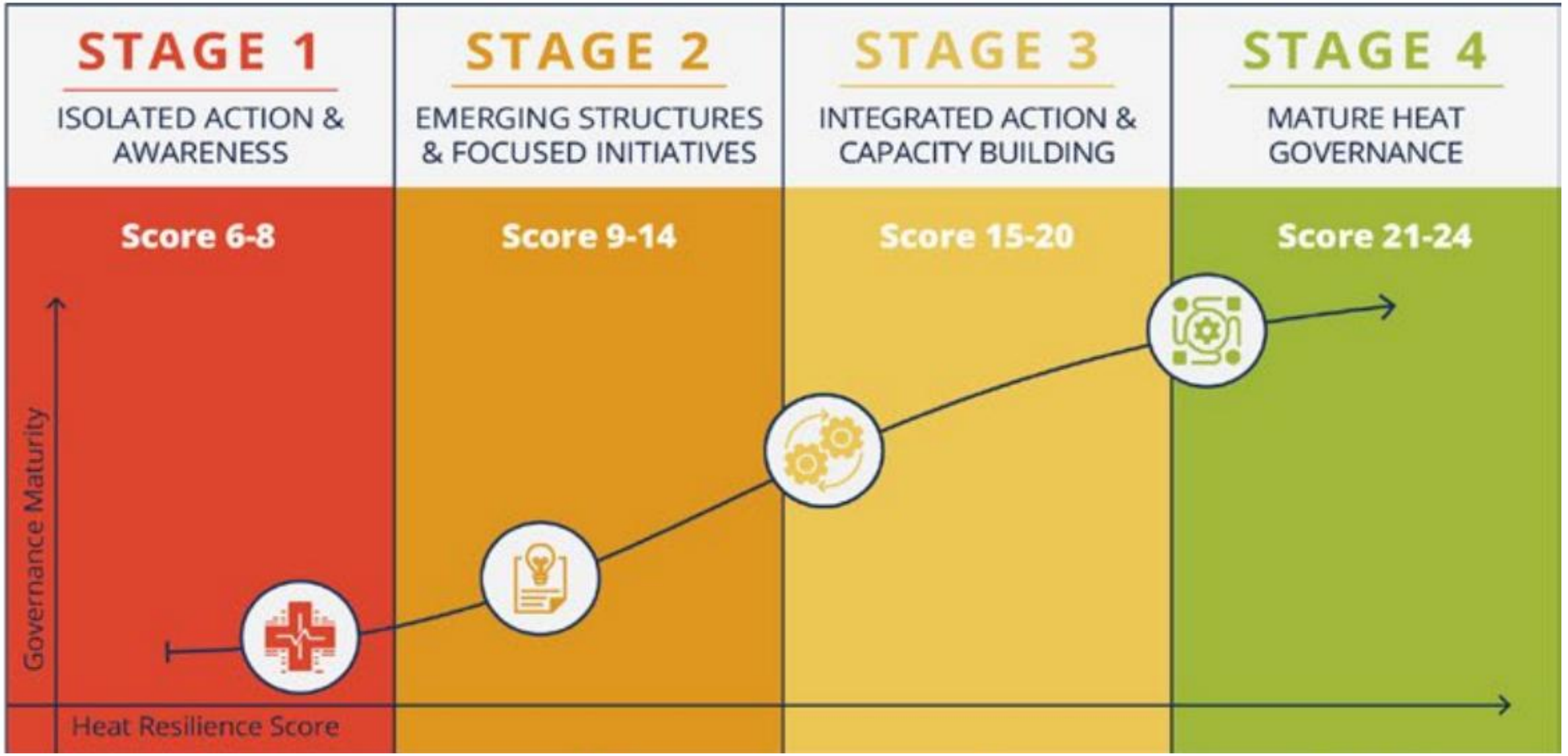
Link Assessment to Action Pathways

Six dimensions, linked to the governance cycle

Governance cycle: Demand → Plan → Act → Learn & Improve → back to Demand

Demand	Plan	Act	Learn
Recognition	Response	Collaboration	Learning & Improvement
Leadership	Resources		

Four stages of heat governance maturity



Each dimension can sit at a different stage e.g. Stage 2 in recognition but Stage 1 in resources.

Demand: Recognition and Leadership

1. Recognition

How are heat risks recognized in your community?

2. Leadership

How are leadership and accountability for heat governance assigned and/or structured?

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Recognition	Acknowledged only during extreme events; limited awareness	A growing issue for public health and resilience; campaigns target vulnerable groups	Integrated into DRR and climate adaptation strategies; awareness across sectors	Addressed as part of systemic challenges (urbanization, inequality, climate change); culture of awareness
Leadership	No designated leadership or clear accountability	Informal or emerging leadership takes responsibility	Formalized roles (e.g., heat officer or agency) with documented responsibilities	Defined in protocols, policies and procedures that survive leadership changes

Plan: Response and Resources

3. Response

How are heat risks addressed through actions and public engagement?

4. Resources

What level of funding and infrastructure exists to support heat resilience efforts?

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Response	Reactive and crisis-driven; minimal public engagement or messaging	Early warning and awareness campaigns in initial development; some pilot outreach	Heat action plans implemented; warnings target vulnerable groups; multimodal outreach	Prevention, mitigation and anticipatory strategies integrated across sectors and levels
Resources	Insufficient funding, staff and infrastructure for the scale of impacts	Project-based or time-limited funding and staff	Multi-year funding and assigned staffing ensure stability	Permanent funding, dedicated staff and robust infrastructure

Act and Learn: Collaboration and Learning



5. Collaboration

How well coordinated are efforts across sectors and governance levels?



6. Learning

How does your organization integrate learning and evaluation into its operations?

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Collaboration	Siloed; no coordination across sectors or levels	Pilot partnerships; ad hoc, informal, dependent on individuals	Inter-agency coordination and joint programmes with external partners	Formalized partnerships across sectors and levels; policy innovation
Learning & Improvement	Rare, reactive evaluation after crises; unclear success metrics	Clear goals and indicators, but learning is siloed and inconsistent	Learning embedded in planning; continuous evaluation with real-time data	Adaptive, iterative learning; lessons shared across regions; governance evolves



Evaluations

Worked example (illustrative city 1)

Dimension	Answer	Score
Recognition	B	2
Leadership	C	3
Response	B	2
Resources	A	1
Collaboration	B	2
Learning & Improvement	A	1
Total		**11**

11 → Stage 2

Emerging Structures & Focused Initiatives

What the profile tells us

- Strongest: a formal heat lead exists (Leadership = 3)
- Weakest: resources and learning (both = 1)
- Priority: secure multi-year funding and build evaluation in from the start

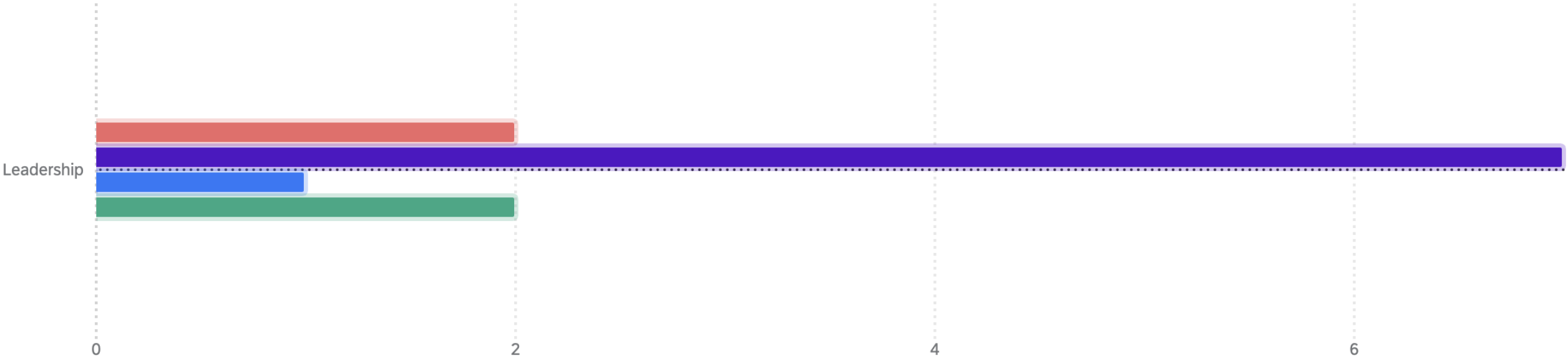
Results

Q1: Governance Model Component: Demand 12



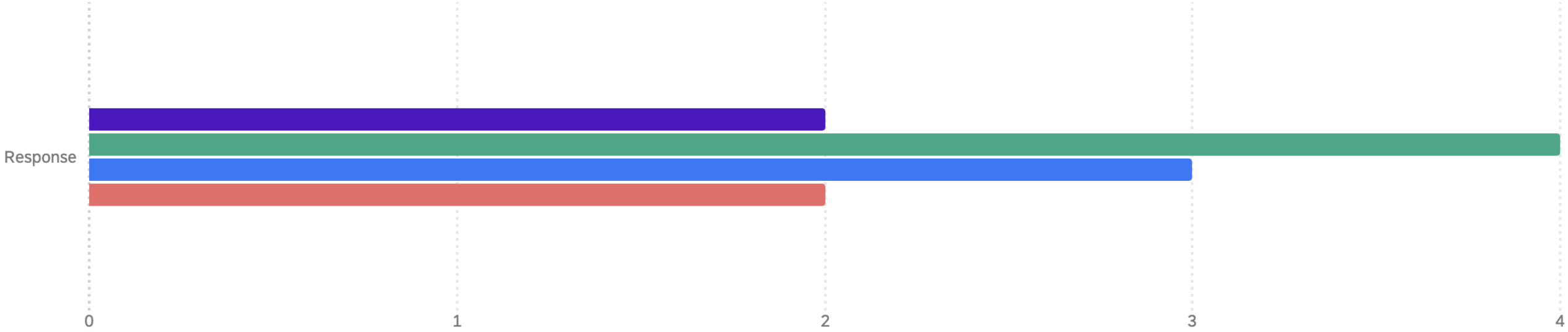
- Stage1: Heat risks are acknowledged only during extreme events; awareness is limited.
- Stage2: Heat is identified as a growing issue for public health and resilience; awareness campaigns target vulnerable populations and key stakeholders.
- Stage3: Formalized roles (e.g., heat officer/agency) with documented responsibilities are established.
- Stage4: Heat resilience is defined in protocols, policies, and procedures to sustain governance through changes in leadership.

Q2: Governance Model Component: Demand 12



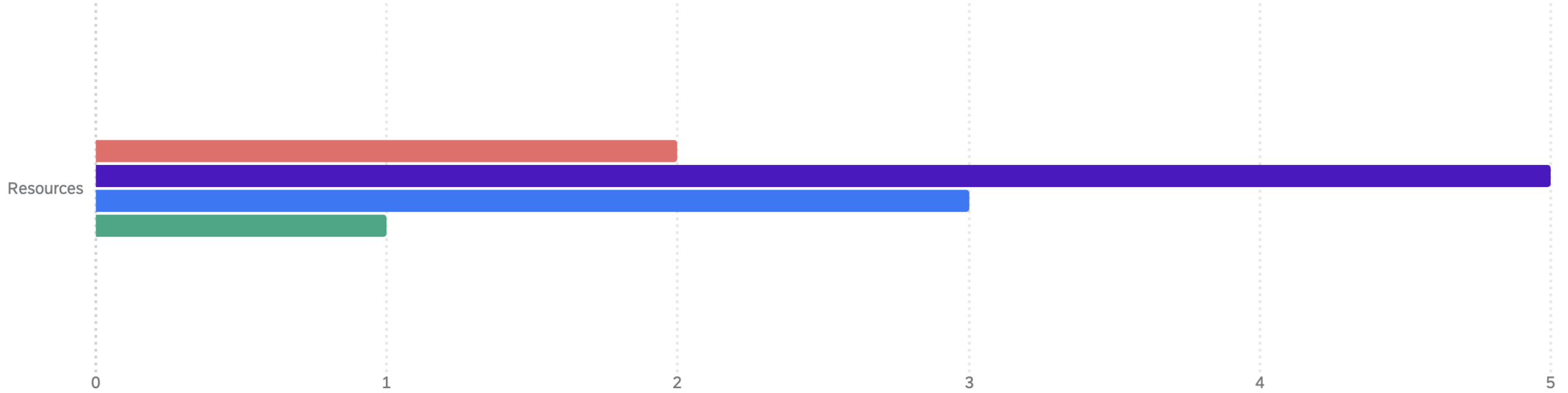
- There is no designated leadership or clear accountability for heat governance.
- Informal or emerging leadership begins to take responsibility for heat risks.
- Formalized roles (e.g., heat officer/agency) with documented responsibilities are established.
- Heat resilience is defined in protocols, policies, and procedures to sustain governance through changes in leadership.

Q3: Governance Model Component: Plan 11

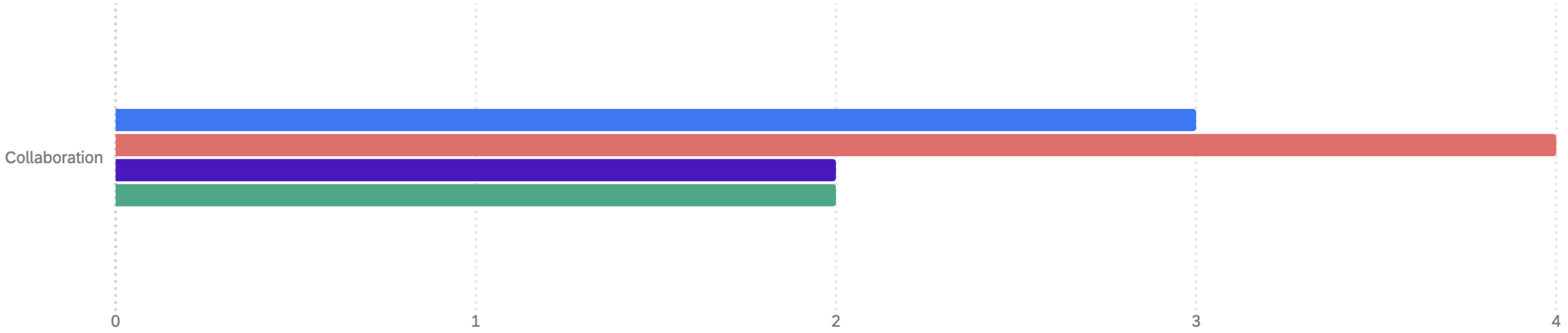


- Responses are reactive and crisis-driven and there is minimal public engagement or messaging on heat-related risks.
- Initial development of early warning system begins and public awareness campaigns based on event rarity and seasonal heat risk are launched; there are some pilot projects for outreach.
- Heat action plans are developed and implemented, improving warning systems to target vulnerable groups and with multimodal outreach and messaging.
- There are comprehensive, anticipatory strategies (e.g., urban cooling, nature-based solutions resilient infrastructure) that integrate across sectors and governance levels to ensure long-term adaptation.

Q4: Governance Model Component: Plan 11

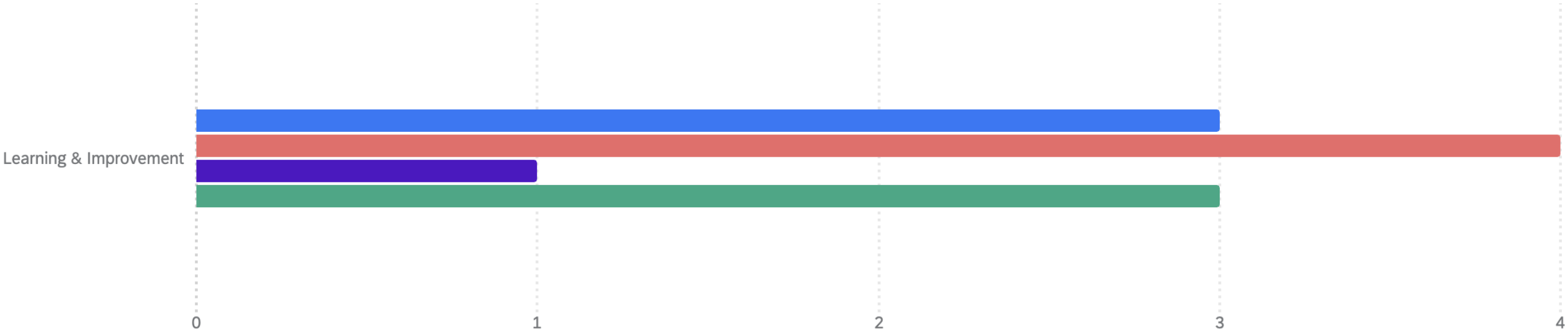


Q5: Governance Model Component: Act 11



- Efforts are siloed; there is no coordination across sectors or governance levels.
- Pilot level partnerships among public, private, and academic sectors start to form; however, collaboration tends to be opportunistic and ad hoc with limited structure and planning.
- Inter-agency coordination and partnerships with external organizations are launched, including joint initiatives or programs, creating stronger linkages across levels of governance.
- Formalized partnerships exist across relevant sectors (public, private, nonprofit, and academic) and levels of government, leading to policy innovation.

Q6: Governance Model Component: Learn 11



- Evaluation is reactive and sporadic. Learning happens after crises through external reviews. Success metrics are unclear.
- Programs have clear goals and indicators for better monitoring and evaluation, but learning remains siloed and inconsistently applied.
- Learning mechanisms are embedded in planning and action. Evaluation is continuous and lessons learned regularly inform decision-making.
- Learning is adaptive, iterative, applicable to complex challenges. Local lessons are shared across regions, and governance evolves based on insights.

Sharing Experiences form the United States



Interpreting the results

Review collectively

- Look for convergence and divergence in responses
- Differences reveal varying views on mandates, data and capacities across institutions
- Reach consensus on the overall stage before planning next steps

The maturity result is the start of a strategic roadmap, not a final grade.