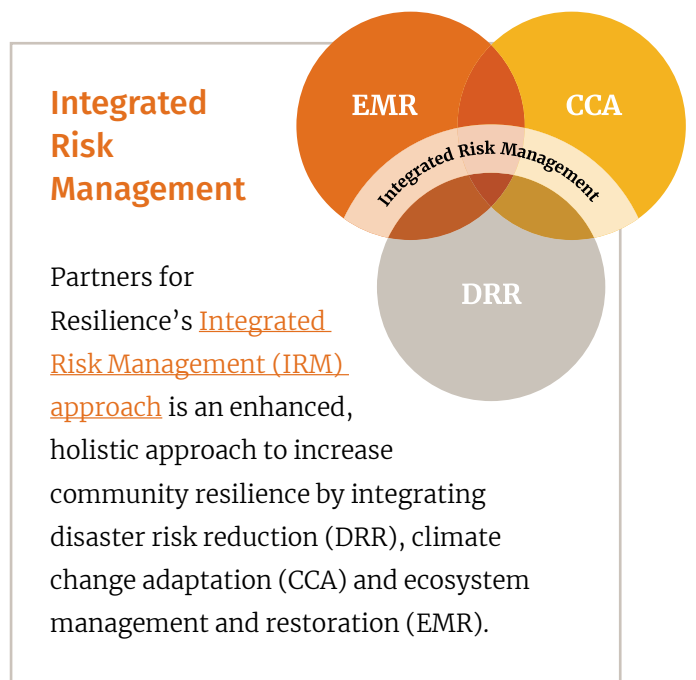


Partners for Resilience in Indonesia

For ten years, CARE has worked to increase community resilience in Nusa Tenggara Timor by diversifying livelihoods and making sure decision-makers hear the voices and needs of the most vulnerable.

- 2011–2015**
CARE and partner Circle of Imagine Society Timor (CIS Timor) strengthened resilience of communities through Small Scale Mitigation Plans that encompassed DRR and CCA interventions, including climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management and physical infrastructure.
- 2016–2020**
CARE and CIS Timor used the evidence and relations developed to strengthen civil society organisations (CSOs) and influence village, district and provincial development plans and budgets to maximise funds for IRM, with a focus on women and marginalised groups.



CARE’s Partners for Resilience (PFR) programme in Indonesia



898,829 community members covered by DRR, CCA, and EMR plans



283 people involved in actions to change policies and plans related to climate change



2,944 community members trained in their capacity to prepare for disasters



9 key stakeholders from government institutions engaged in incorporating IRM in laws and policies



8 Small Scale Mitigation Plans implemented



5 CSOs with strengthened capacity to lobby and advocate for IRM



5 policies, guidelines and laws changed to adopt IRM, impacting the lives of vulnerable people

Context

Indonesia is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. In the last decade nearly 27,000 disaster events struck the islands, most of them water and weather related. In the east, the Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province is prone to heavy rainfall, landslides, floods and earthquakes. Drought has become a major issue, creating difficult farming conditions for communities characterised by subsistence agriculture and dependency on water resources.

In this context, a consortium of CARE, Cordaid, The Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre and Wetlands International implemented the [Partners for Resilience \(PfR\)](#) programme for ten years, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To help increase community resilience, PfR used an Integrated Risk Management (IRM) approach, embedding climate and ecosystems structurally into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). This publication outlines CARE's main achievements.



Main achievements

Disaster Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Management

CARE and CIS Timor supported communities to prevent disasters and improve their preparedness. By introducing 8 [Small Scale Mitigation Plans \(SSMPs\)](#), CARE ensured the adoption of measures to avoid the disruption of community livelihoods. CARE enabled access to knowledge on nature-based mitigation measures to reduce exposure to hazards for 898,829 inhabitants of the districts of Timor Tengah Selatan and Kupang.

- CARE facilitated the design of SSMPs following an inclusive process with community representatives. [Participation of women and marginalised groups](#) ensured the development of contextualised activities ([short video](#)). The SSMPs focused on: DRR measures, resilient gardens, settled farming, cattle barns, spring water protection and erosion control, water supply and irrigation, renewable energy with biogas systems, and seed banks.
- Through the SSMPs, communities analysed their landslide susceptibility and gathered input for farmers to determine better land management practices. These practices led to regenerating damaged topsoil and reducing flood impacts and landslides when rain hit the country.

CARE's gender focus

CARE embedded a [gender equality framework](#) in the approach to working with CSO partners, community planning, and influencing local and national laws and policies. Gender-focused activities included a gender training showing local officials (mainly men) the importance of seeing things through a gender lens and developing gender-sensitive plans. [Women's participation in group meetings](#) was promoted by organising meetings in the local language and using drawings to ensure that illiterate women could participate. [CARE's Gender Marker](#), a self-assessment programme quality and learning tool, was applied each year.



Climate Change Adaptation

CARE and partners increased farmers' capacities on sustainable agricultural practices, analysis of and access to forecast data and market prices, and new products. In this way, CARE prepared 2,944 community members for a new climate reality.

- Communities were trained on restoring, reusing and recycling post-harvest materials, to prevent a lack of resources during extreme weather events. CARE also facilitated training on adaptive livelihood practices like reusing domestic wastewater and producing fertilizer from local materials to reduce dependency on external providers and prolong the growth of crops.
- [CARE's work to strengthen skills of farmers](#) in 8 communities of NTT increased their access to and security of agricultural inputs by 90%, improving their productivity and income. Farmers gained knowledge on harvesting drought-resistant crops like [purple sweet potato](#) with higher nutritional value and profitable market prices.
- CARE and partners shared information about policies related to agriculture to raise awareness within communities of their rights and duties. Additional information about weather forecasts allowed communities to make accurate decisions. Finally, information on market prices and agricultural inputs increased awareness of supply and demand.

Strengthening capacity of civil society and government

Strengthened advocacy capacity of CSOs, coupled with a strong knowledge base and strengthened IRM capacity of the government, led to an environment that enabled vulnerable communities to become resilient.

- CIS Timor supported DRR forums - local multi-stakeholder Disaster Risk Management (DRM) partnerships - and encouraged them to include climate change adaptation. CIS Timor provided inputs on DRM to support DRR Forums' efforts in influencing district governments and disseminating information. DRR forums have become major drivers of disaster issues.
- Building on the SSMPs, CIS Timor shared knowledge on technologies such as drip irrigation and [injection wells](#), coaching village development plan formulation teams and administrators to assign budgets for gender sensitive IRM activities.
- CARE developed a [training module on gender sensitive IRM](#) for Community Empowerment Officers of the Ministry of Villages. CARE and CIS Timor revitalised district level Gender Working Groups, and developed the [Women's Forum for Village Development Plans \(MUSRENA\)](#).
- CIS Timor strengthened the IRM capacities of the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (GMIT in Indonesian). Pastors advocated for policies for strengthening DRM institutions and the formation of the COVID-19 Disaster Management Team.

Small Scale, Big Impact

Jupiter Tenistuan's story of resilience

Jupiter Tenistuan is a 60-year-old man living in Oekiu, Timor Tengah Selatan, Indonesia. Water shortage is challenging Jupiter's community, and is projected to worsen in the coming decade. In preparation for the dry season, Jupiter took the initiative to dig a well next to his house to create a source of clean water. The project seemed a failure: after digging to a depth of 24 metres, there was no sign of water. But then Jupiter had a brilliant idea: by converting the well into a rainwater reservoir, he created a water supply that lasts all year long.

Inspired by the good practice of Jupiter, CARE and partner CIS Timor encouraged the replication of his efforts through village development policies. Today, 97 wells have been built in the village, with funding from the Indonesian Village Fund. The reservoirs have brought considerable benefits, particularly for women who no longer need to travel far to get clean water. For Jupiter, resilience means adopting creative solutions to adapt to droughts.

Influencing laws and policies

The Government of Indonesia has decentralised authority and budgets to provincial, district and village levels. CARE advocated to mainstream IRM principles at the national level, and CIS Timor worked with authorities, communities and CSOs to mainstream IRM principles at the local level. As a result:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed the availability of the Village Fund for village-level emergency situations. Consequently, the district regulation on village budget management in Timor Tengah Selatan explicitly stated the same, allowing villages to use these funds for emergencies and disaster recovery.
- In 2019 and 2020, eight villages allocated funds for gender responsive disaster preparedness into their annual development plans and budgets, including watershed management, land rehabilitation and [injection wells](#). CARE and CIS Timor enabled women to organise and design action plans ([MUSRENA](#)) that capture their priorities. The gendered part of the village budgets increased from 5% in 2016 to 30% in 2019.
- The church network GMIT adopted IRM and gender-responsive activities and declared November as month of the environment. When COVID-19 hit the country, pastors collaborated to carry out a COVID-19 campaign to provide aid.
- In Kupang, IRM principles were integrated into a strategic environmental impact assessment to inform the mid-term district development plan. IRM and gender-responsive activities were also integrated into Kupang's new disaster risk assessment. Appreciation of the district of Kupang is a crucial achievement in building PfR synergy with government and other actors.

Localisation and sustainability: CIS Timor and DRR Forums

[CIS Timor](#) played a critical role in the PfR programme at the village/district level in NTT, conducting IRM dialogues and leading the work on women empowerment. CARE enabled CIS Timor to increase its knowledge and programme management capacity, leading to collaboration with other INGOs on IRM/ climate change. The DRR Forums supported by PfR continue with IRM, in particular the Forum of Timor Tengah Selatan.

Lessons & recommendations

- Small-Scale Mitigation Plans (SSMPs) made the integration of DRR, CCA and EMR into local planning comprehensible for communities. Linking people's basic needs with preventive strategies and tangible actions, leveraged participation and accountability of government institutions.
- Elections turned out to be a key moment to lobby and advocate for IRM, and enabled PfR to influence many mid-term and long-term strategic development plans at national and sub-national levels. There is however a risk of losing momentum with changes in the policy agenda or government staff.
- A multi-stakeholder approach involving CSO partners, local networks and government was fundamental for success. By working both with communities and government, government agendas could be influenced. The grassroots network and advocacy experience of CIS Timor played a key role.
- Training community and farmer groups to advocate as intermediaries is an efficient way to influence policies. These groups received support from community leaders. When approached by these groups, the government was more inclined to integrate IRM in plans and policies.
- Adaptive planning and management became crucial in the face of unforeseen events. CARE took a risk reduction approach to deliver all planned activities under the challenges posed by national climate emergencies and COVID-19, revising and adjusting priorities and budgets to respond.

Key publications & tools

- [PfR Indonesia Knowledge Management Platform](#) – key PfR Indonesia knowledge products.
- [Resilient Futures: an integrated approach to managing risk and building sustainable livelihoods in Oelbiteno, NTT](#) – a case study of the work on Small-Scale Mitigation Plans.
- [A journey for a thousand smiles](#) – case studies on the PfR programme, including CARE cases on gender and the purple sweet potato.
- [Guideline, Legal Basis and Infographic \(Indonesian\)](#) – on the use of village funds for COVID-19 response.
- [Gender-based Integrated Risk Management training module \(Indonesian\)](#) – describes how to embed gender into DRR, CCA and EMR actions.
- [The Integrated Risk Management Law and Policy Checklist](#) – a PfR checklist to assess to what extent laws, policies, plans, and budgets are integrated and inclusive.

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PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE
Working together on disasters, climate, ecosystems