

We bend, we do not break

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES DEALING WITH DISASTER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE





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Partners for Resilience

Disasters have strongly increased in both frequency and impact, with climate change as one of the main contributors to more extreme, frequent, and unpredictable weather. Degradation and loss of ecosystems intensify natural hazards. Combined with the high vulnerability of communities in the Global South, this leads to increased disaster risk. Despite these many challenges, there are solutions to create a sustainable future. When provided the necessary resources, communities mobilize to adapt to and prepare for increasing risks. In Partners for Resilience, CARE works to reduce disaster risk by increasing community resilience – enabling people to bend and not break in the face of adversity.

The poorest people in the most vulnerable countries suffer disproportionately

from disasters and climate change impacts. Disasters wipe out hard-won reductions in poverty, and communities are caught in a vicious circle where poverty creates vulnerability, and disasters and climate change impacts increase poverty. To ease this situation, the Partners for Resilience program reduces the impact of hazards on vulnerable communities in the South.

Partners for Resilience (PfR) is an alliance of the Netherlands Red Cross, CARE Nederland, Cordaid, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Wetlands International. The name originates in the fundamental belief of its five members in the central role of resilience as the way to deal effectively with disasters. PfR uses an integrated approach, called Integrated Risk Management (IRM), to mitigate disaster risk and enhance livelihoods, particularly by

addressing climate change and ecosystem management and restoration. PfR is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

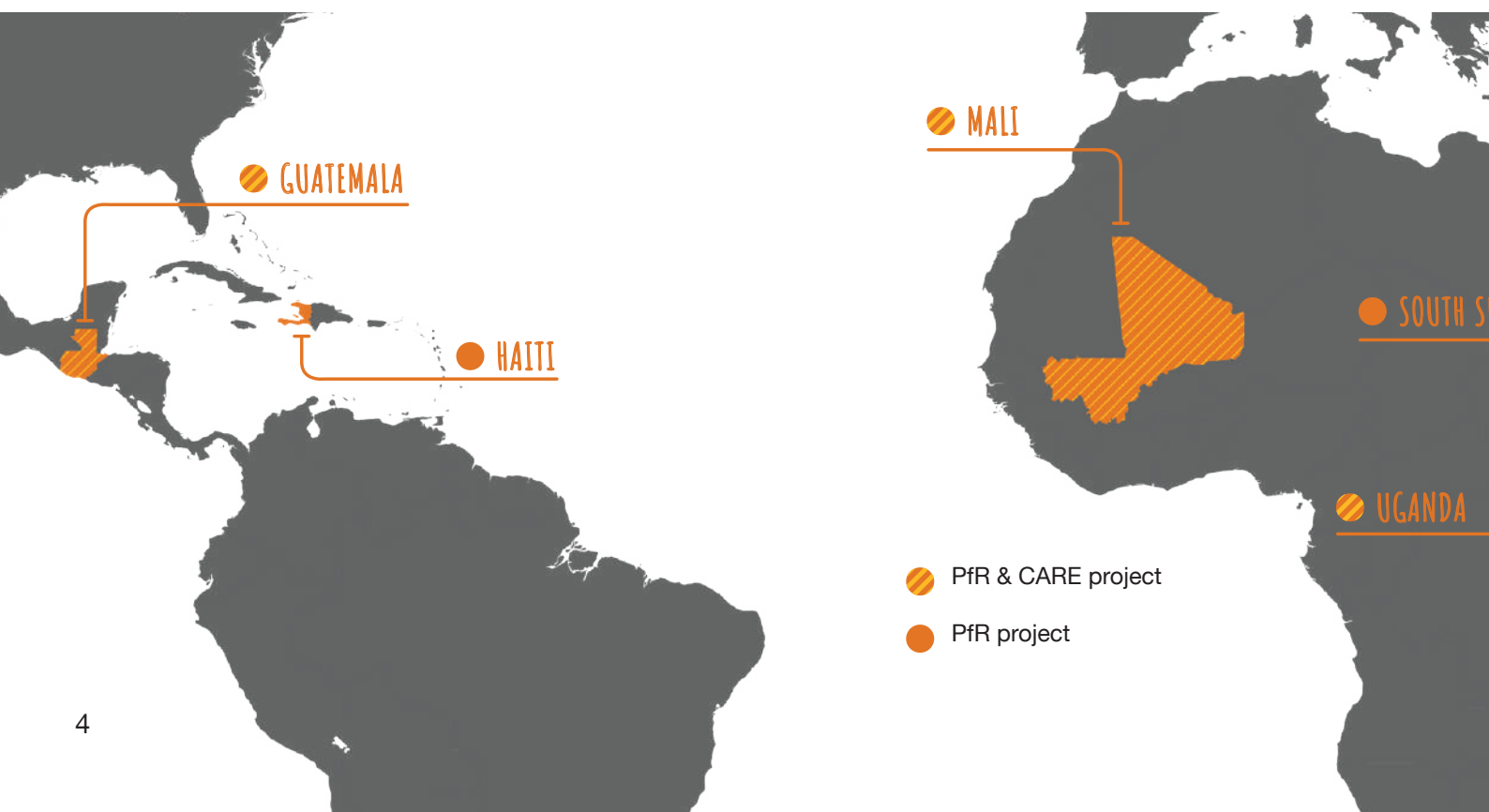
Integrated Risk Management

CARE defines Integrated Risk Management (IRM) as the systematic process of reducing disaster risks through anticipative, absorptive, adaptive and transformative actions, taking into account the effects of climate change and the role of ecosystems. It addresses the drivers of risk, the capacities and assets of communities and individuals, and their enabling environment.

This publication

In this publication, CARE aims to highlight how the implementation of an Integrated Risk Management approach leads to social transformation and more resilient communities that are well prepared to deal with a diversity of shocks and challenges. The protagonists are the people themselves, sharing how their lives and the lives of members of their communities have improved. These stories are expanded upon with examples of CARE's work within PfR in each country.

More information? Visit partnersforresilience.nl



Core principles of Integrated Risk Management



TRENDS AND PREDICTIONS

Integrated Risk Management entails linking past disaster trends and future climate predictions



ACROSS DIFFERENT TIMESCALES

Integrated projects plan for both short-term risks and long-term change



BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS

IRM takes a holistic approach to build capacities to foresee and reduce the impact of hazards, to quickly recover if disaster strikes, to adapt to current and new hazards and strengthen the ability to influence the wider environment



REDUCE DRIVERS OF RISK

An Integrated Risk Management approach seeks to understand and address the causes and effects of natural hazards, aggravated by climate change and degraded ecosystems



LINKING LOCAL TO GLOBAL ACROSS DISCIPLINES

IRM bridges between local experiences and solutions, and global developments and scientific insights, across disciplines and sectors



COMMUNITY CAPACITIES AND ASSETS

An IRM approach builds on existing capacities and assets in communities and promotes sustainable livelihoods and (gender) equity as key to resilience



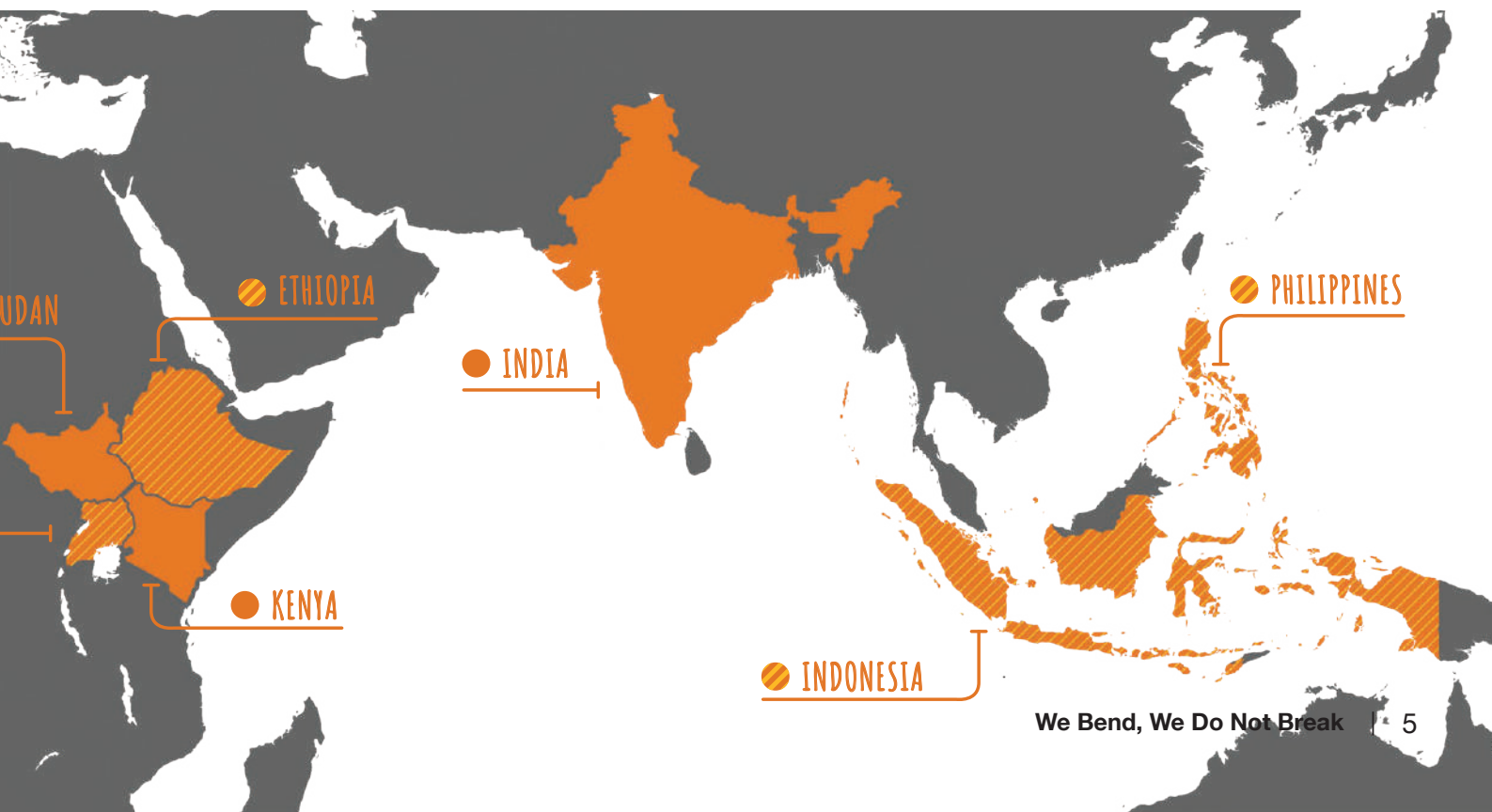
A LANDSCAPE APPROACH

An IRM approach encompasses wider ecosystems and spatial scales, beyond administrative boundaries, taking into account all stakeholders involved



ENABLING INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

An IRM approach strengthens civil society capacity and uses policy dialogue to influence policy, investments and practice to the advantage of vulnerable groups





Kediga Humed from Ethiopia

DROUGHT? WE CAN HANDLE IT

Kediga Humed is a farmer and loves cooking. She is hardworking and dedicated to positively changing her life. Kediga lives in Beladulo village in the Afar region in Ethiopia. This region is characterized by an arid and semi-arid climate with low and erratic rainfall.

The recurrent drought has made life difficult and unpredictable for Kediga. She is an agro-pastoralist: she raises livestock and works with the land. The landscape where Kediga lives used to be covered with abundant grass and shrubs. Drought was not as frequent as it is now.

Kediga's community has been affected by the recurrent drought. The number of animals has significantly reduced, and now the community no longer has enough milk for their families. As there is also not enough grass, people buy maize to feed the animals they have left, or bring them to places where there is sufficient land and water.

**"I DO ALL THE
WORK MYSELF:
I WEED AND
HARVEST THE
CROPS."**

When CARE's Partners for Resilience program began working with her community, Kediga received training in irrigation crop production. Kediga was inspired by the program's work to reduce her community's vulnerability and prepare them for the drought by diversifying their livelihood and income. Kediga adds:

"Before the project started, our pasture species died and we were unable to cope with the long drought. We were in the midst of a food security emergency. Poor people, like me, were the most vulnerable to food and water scarcity."

**"I SEE THAT THE
COMMUNITY HAS
ADAPTED TO WITHSTAND
DROUGHT."**

Kediga participated in experience sharing visits to other districts. With her community, she also received trainings on irrigation agronomy, the proper utilization of water through irrigation, market accessibility, and storage systems for agricultural products.

Kediga's happiest moment was when water entered her plot of land for the first time. She will always remember that moment. Life has changed a lot for Kediga. She explains: "Now I am always in my village and working on my farmland."

Kediga has seen that the mindset of the community is changing. The working culture of the community has improved. In the past, the people of Afar were not engaged in farming activities. Today, both women and men are engaged.

Kediga and her community are now prepared to face the drought. They combine farming and rearing livestock and they also share their agricultural produce with their friends and relatives who are unable to farm during periods of drought. They overcome the lean period by helping each other.

Cooperation is needed to overcome the challenges within Kediga's community. She has seen the community adapt and transform to withstand drought and other hazards. Resilience is now a reality.





Partners for Resilience

IN ETHIOPIA



Alliance members

CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Wetlands International



Main impact group(s)

School-age girls and women in pastoral communities



CARE partners

CARE Ethiopia, Afar Pastoral Development Association (APDA), Support for Sustainable Development (SSD), Action for Integrated Sustainable Development Association (AISDA)



Where?

Afar Regional State

Afar



Interpreting climate forecasts, together

Ethiopia is one of the sub-Saharan African countries most exposed to a wide range of risks, associated with the country's diverse geo-climatic and socio-economic conditions. Drought and floods represent the major challenges. The negative consequences of climate change are predicted to further increase exposure to climate-related and hydrological hazards.

In the Partners for Resilience (PfR) program, CARE focuses on the Afar region in Northeast Ethiopia (1.8 million inhabitants). In its arid and semi-arid environment, pastoralism is the main source of livelihood for a majority of the population: most people rely on their livestock, often cattle, goat, sheep, camel and donkey, for income. Pastoralists move around the region, particularly during the dry season, to look for water and land for their animals. CARE's interventions are focused on strengthening the capacity of the government to manage disaster risk and implement early warning measures, so that the people of Afar can become resilient to climate change impacts and environmental degradation.

One of PfR's activities is Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP), a mechanism for collective sharing and interpretation of climate forecasts. PSP is conducted as soon as a seasonal climate forecast is available from meteorological services. Usually taking place in a workshop setting over one to two days, PSP brings together meteorologists, community members, local government departments and local NGOs to share their knowledge on climate forecasts. In this way, a space is created for sharing both local and scientific knowledge on climate, discussing and appreciating the value of the two sources and finding ways to interpret the information so that it is locally relevant and useful. Participants consider climatic probabilities, assessing likely hazards, risks, opportunities and impacts, and develop scenarios based on the assessment. Discussion of the potential implications of these scenarios on livelihoods leads to agreement on plans and contingencies that respond adequately to the levels of risk and uncertainty. Participatory Scenario Planning forms part of the

adaptation planning process, making the link between community plans and local government response, support and plans.

For the economic empowerment of women, to help reduce the vulnerability of her family during drought, the PfR program gave women and men an orientation on the benefits of saving and forming a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA). This led 139 people to become member and begin saving, taking loans in turns to engage in various



income generating activities - including fattening and selling of goats, consumer goods shops and cereal trade. With this additional income and decision-making capacity women can afford to keep their children at home while the men go in search of pasture during periods of drought. These children can then attend school, increasing the income opportunity for the community in the long run - and their resilience.

Raquel Vásquez from Guatemala

MOTHER EARTH

Raquel Vásquez is the leader of the grassroots organization Madre Tierra, or Mother Earth. She has been a member of this group for 24 years, where she interacts with civil society and local and national authorities, and participates in political dialogue to advocate for women's empowerment.



When Raquel joined Madre Tierra, she had little confidence and was nervous to speak in public. In the past, she was a victim of violence and sexual abuse.

Raquel overcame her fears and realized that she could lead change. Raquel stated: "With the violence, discrimination and problems that women face, we have to be clear and understand that it is not something that we have been born with. It is a problem that society itself has been in charge of."

Raquel is lucky that her mother worked for Madre Tierra in the past. Her mother encouraged and empowered her to join the organization and represent her community. Further discovering her capabilities and potentials was what motivated Raquel to move forward. Raquel said:

"I started very small in the organization. But we can contribute a lot as young women to the processes of change and development of our communities."

"CONSIDERING
THAT THE
DESTRUCTION
OF THE EARTH
IS CAUSED BY
HUMAN BEINGS,
THE SOLUTION
IS IN OUR
HANDS."



Now, Raquel is the leader of Madre Tierra. Madre Tierra started in 1993, during the civil war in Guatemala. The organization helped refugee women return home from Mexico. Madre Tierra means a lot to Raquel: “It is a safe space that has allowed me to learn, but also to grow as an independent woman.”

Through CARE’s Partners for Resilience program, members of organizations like Madre Tierra are supported to learn about the consequences of climate change and how to adapt to its increasing impacts. Raquel says:

“The earth is changing. The strongest impact that we have experienced due to climate change is the lack of water.”

**“ALTHOUGH WE FALL,
WE ALWAYS GET UP.
WE ARE RESILIENT.”**

Raquel is determined to take action to address climate change. Madre Tierra has developed training and analysis processes at the community level, identifying key capabilities and vulnerabilities. Additionally, Madre Tierra works together with CONRED, the national disaster response agency in Guatemala. CONRED has trained members of Madre Tierra on how to educate women in disaster risk management.

For Raquel, things are clear. If there are no women involved, then there will be no successful solutions. Raquel adds: “There is a relationship between the Earth and women. They both feed the world, they both give life.”

The inclusion of women is important to the urgent adaptation to climate change which is needed to make the planet habitable for generations to come. Including all genders also leads to more successful implementation: when women are engaged, the entire community is heard. With pride, Raquel adds: “For me, the most motivating thing is the change that is seen in people. There will be no changes if people do not become aware of their impact on the planet.”

Raquel is realistic but confident about the future. It gives her courage to see that she is surrounded by so many people.



Partners for Resilience

IN GUATEMALA



Alliance members

CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Wetlands International



Main impact group(s)

Guatemalan population most vulnerable to climate change, environmental degradation, and the impact of disasters



CARE partners

CARE Guatemala



Where?

Quetzaltenango, Sololá department



Quetzaltenango and Sololá



Dual solutions to gender equality and resilience

Guatemala is highly vulnerable to disasters. Worldwide, it is one of the ten countries most exposed to a wide range of hazards, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and periods of drought and floods. It is women and girls who are more likely to suffer from these disasters due to existing inequalities, vulnerabilities and negative gender norms. As land, forest and water resources are heavily impacted by disasters and the consequences of climate change, women are particularly marginalized as their livelihoods depend on these resources. Hence, to achieve effective Integrated Risk Management, gender equality must also be addressed.

In the Partners for Resilience program in Guatemala, CARE works together with CONRED (Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres), Guatemala's national civil protection office. CONRED is responsible for disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, and emergency response and reconstruction.

In 2016, CONRED introduced an Equality and Gender Equality Policy to mainstream gender equality across all aspects of their work. Creating the policy was the first step, but successful implementation required additional effort and coordination. Therefore, in 2017, PfR worked with the gender unit at CONRED to develop a five-year monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to measure the implementation and results of the policy. This M&E system included quarterly and annual monitoring of important indicators, such as that by 2022, 80% of CONRED's programs incorporate the gender approach and 35% of participants within CONRED's regional coordination units are women.

The M&E system for the Equality and Gender Equality Policy has the potential to not only be replicated by other government departments in Guatemala, but also by other countries in the region. If this system is successful, this is in fact a dual solution: gender equality is mainstreamed, and women, specifically from rural and indigenous areas, increase their resilience.

Jupiter Tenistuan from Indonesia

Jupiter Tenistuan is a 60 year old man living in the Oekiu village in Indonesia. Each year, his village suffers from the long dry season. But Jupiter found an opportunity in this challenge: he found that you can achieve big results when you start small.



SMALL SCALE, BIG IMPACT

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. Oekiu village, where Jupiter lives, is located in the Regency of Timor Tengah Selatan, Province of East Nusa Tenggara, and suffers from drought each year.

When Jupiter's well reached a depth of 24 meters and there was still no sign of water, he began to question if he should continue. Jupiter was afraid there would be a landslide as he lived up in the hills.

**"FINALLY, PEOPLE CAN
FULFILL THEIR NEED FOR
CLEAN WATER"**

But Jupiter did not give up. He converted the failed well into a rainwater reservoir, coating the insides of the pit with cement and building a wall around the opening. He then diverted the rainwater to flow from the roof of his house directly into the reservoir. It worked.



One year after Jupiter started digging, the well was finished. Since then, he has been collecting water during the rainy season, and now has a water supply all year long. Jupiter is very proud of his well. He was able to address the impacts of the drought on his own. Jupiter uses the water for household needs and to feed his animals. During the dry season, his house became the only house with plants in the garden, while his neighbours struggled to obtain clean water.

In 2011, CARE's Partners for Resilience (PfR) program began implementing activities in Oekiu. Inspired by the good practice of Jupiter, PfR encouraged the replication of his efforts through village development policies.

Together, CARE and Jupiter advocated for more wells in the village. As a former village head and chair of the group of indigenous leaders in Oekiu village, Jupiter has considerable influence.

In 2015, the procurement of materials to build wells using the Indonesian Village Fund was approved. Today, 97 wells have been built in the village. The government helps with the funding for cement, buckets, blocks, and ropes. But digging the wells is done by the villagers.

Although he has already achieved a lot, Jupiter is eager to do more. He is still advocating for the construction of more wells in the village and he is waiting for this year's funding.

The wells in the village brought a lot of benefits for the community. For example, women no longer need to go far to gather clean water. Now, they can access clean water from their own village, usually from their own backyard.

Jupiter proved that just one person's idea can have a big impact.



"I THINK AS LONG AS I AM HEALTHY, I WILL KEEP FIGHTING FOR THEM"



Partners for Resilience

IN INDONESIA



Alliance members

CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Wetlands International



Main impact group(s)

Village government, village facilitators, district government, communities, women groups, and farmer groups.



CARE partners

CARE International Indonesia, Circle of Imagine Society Timor (CIS Timor)



Where?

Nusa Tenggara Timur



Nusa Tenggara Timur



Accessing public funds to increase community resilience

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world; its unique geography and topography make it particularly vulnerable to many hazards. Earthquakes, tidal waves, floods, droughts, storms, landslides, and wildfires are frequent and often severe. Many of these hazards are becoming more frequent and less predictable because of climate change. In Indonesia, Nusa Tenggara Timur is one of the most affected provinces as high rates of poverty and malnutrition are exacerbated by the impacts of drought and climate change.

CARE's Partners for Resilience program in Indonesia works with communities and governments to ensure village, district, and provincial development plans include Integrated Risk Management principles, with a particular focus on budgets and processes linked to the Village Law (No.6/2014). To do this, CARE works with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and communities to advocate for Integrated Risk Management to be streamlined in legislation and, in doing so, enable communities to access government resources to build their resilience.

CARE is committed to ensuring that a gender perspective is integrated into its entire approach and works with CSOs, communities and government officials at all levels to build their understanding of the rights of women and vulnerable groups. In PfR, CARE focuses on strengthening government capacity to streamline a gender-sensitive and integrated approach to risk into laws and regulations.

In Indonesia, CARE promoted the Forum for Women Village Development Plan (MUSRENA), an initiative to gather women representatives to discuss future village development plans. In this forum, women articulate their interests, views and perspectives on the development priorities of their village. The results of these discussions serve as a valuable input for the wider forum on village development plans.

CARE Gender Marker

CARE is committed to achieving gender equality and empowerment for women and girls. The CARE Gender Marker helps the organization to deliver on this commitment and continuously improve programming to better meet the needs of women, men, boys and girls. It is an accountability and learning tool that monitors how well gender has been integrated into CARE's humanitarian and development work throughout the project cycle.

CARE Gender Continuum

The CARE Gender Marker grades projects from 0-4, then places the result on CARE's Gender Continuum - a scale ranging from 'gender harmful' to 'gender transformative'.



HER LAND, HER FUTURE

Fanta Bocoum from Mali

Fanta Bocoum is a 41-year old mother of four children. She had to overcome difficult obstacles, but now she is an inspiration to many. As a member of a women's union in her village, she is a strong advocate for women's land rights.



"THE LAND IS EVERYTHING TO US. WITHOUT IT, WE CANNOT LIVE."

When Fanta was young, her dream was to become a teacher. Due to her father's job and status, she was lucky to attend school. However, Fanta got married at a young age. She became pregnant and had to quit her studies after finishing primary school.

Fanta's time was spent in the home, like most women from her community. Her husband was a cattle trader in Ouenkoro and the surrounding villages. Although her life wasn't what she envisioned, her determination to fight for better education for her children remained strong. She insisted, despite the early marriage of her daughter, that she would continue her education, and likewise that Fanta's three sons attend school.

Fanta became a widow when her husband died in 2016. This widowhood only lasted a short time because the brother of her late husband decided to take Fanta as his third wife. This subjected Fanta to a new way of life, with the change from a monogamous to a polygamous marriage. Fanta felt vulnerable in this situation and she had to work more to ensure food for herself and her children.

In Fanta's village, land is the main means of production and its access guarantees control over food and non-food resources. Fanta used to cultivate a piece of land. However, due to the death of her husband, she was forced to abandon this parcel.

When taking part in CARE's Partners for Resilience program, Fanta gained confidence and began making her own decisions. Through the program, Fanta obtained a position that gave her the opportunity to meet with elected officials. In fact, through one of these meetings, the mayor of Ouenkoro found out that Fanta had a primary school diploma. At that time, they needed a teacher at a school close to Fanta's village: they offered Fanta her dream job.

With her new salary, Fanta invested in small animals which she now sells. With the profits, Fanta was able to purchase two oxen.



Today, Fanta is a member of the women's union in her village, and of the municipality coalition of Ouenkoro. This coalition lobbied for changes in land tenure and the allocation of land to women at the level of elected officials, traditional chiefs and land owners. The officials signed an agreement to transfer property to Fanta and other women of the village Ouenkoro. Fanta is determined to continue her efforts. She adds:

"This agreement is more than a piece of paper. This paper represents our confidence instilled by the approval from elected officials and the administration."

When women have rightful ownership of land, they can securely invest in it, and communities become more resilient.

"IM USING MY VOICE,
AND IT'S WORKING."



Partners for Resilience

IN MALI



Alliance members

CARE Nederland, Netherlands
Red Cross, Red Cross Red
Crescent Climate Centre,
Wetlands International



Main impact group(s)

Women and (young) people from
vulnerable households. Primarily
from farming pastoralist and fisher
communities.



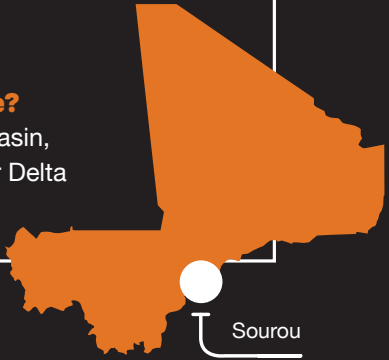
CARE partners

CARE Mali



Where?

Sourou basin,
Inner Niger Delta





Reorganizing community groups for secure access to land

The Inner Niger delta and the Sourou basin in Mali form a great green oasis on the edge of the Sahara Desert. This constitutes the second largest wetland in Africa and supports the livelihoods of two million people. Yet, the valuable natural resources the wetland provides are under threat, in turn threatening the life and culture of the people depending on it. The wetland supports three main livelihood groups: farmers, pastoralists and fishers. Each of these groups has different needs that can lead to conflicts over land use. Over the past few years, yields and production have decreased because of overexploitation of the basins, unsustainable fishing practices, environmental degradation, and excessive droughts and floods.

This situation is making the local people, particularly women, children and the elderly, vulnerable to increased levels of

poverty, leaving them exposed to shocks and stresses. In turn, this is also worsening conflict and displacement. Mali wants to increase its food production, and new infrastructure can help meet these needs. However, when dams and irrigation projects are poorly designed and managed, they can also threaten livelihoods and undermine food production. Mainstream agriculture is based on ideas from the Green Revolution of the 1960s, with a focus on land clearing and monoculture. Stimulating more holistic agricultural systems, based on tradition, can lead to more sustainable and climate smart food production.

All land users have one thing in common: they rely on the resources of the delta and basin. Therefore, despite their differences, they have a common interest in protecting them. Partners for Resilience (PfR) Mali has facilitated a process of reorganizing existing community groups into coalitions at different administrative levels: from the village and municipality up to the provincial level. These civil society organizations have shown the capability to solve land-use conflicts.

The PfR program invested in training these coalitions to be better organized and thereafter on the land tenure system and relevant laws. With this new knowledge, the coalition members were taught how to advocate for the proper application of these laws. As a result, they successfully lobbied for traditional leaders and landowners to not only allocate land to women, but also translate this allocation into certified local title deeds. Their lobbying as a coalition resulted in them acquiring secure access to land. As a result, female community members have invested in a plot for vegetable gardening, allowing them to diversify sources of income.

Alvin Martin from the Philippines

RESILIENT FISHERS



Alvin Martin, a father of five children, is a fisher from the city of Navotas in Metro Manila, Philippines. Alvin leads an organization of small scale fishers in their engagement with local and city government. Although the environment is deeply impacted by increasing water pollution and solid waste, Alvin is determined to remain resilient.

Alvin was raised by a family of fishers and started out cleaning boats at a young age. Soon he joined fishers as they ventured into the water. Today, Alvin is one of them.

Navotas (259,000 inhabitants) is a city in the Philippines and a part of Metro Manila (12.8 million inhabitants) on the Manila Bay. Over time, its population has

grown exponentially with an increasing number of people relying on fishing for their livelihoods. Today, more than ninety percent of the population of Navotas have livelihoods that are related to the fishing sector. Large commercial companies from outside of Navotas with bigger trawls have also started fishing in the area resulting in less catch for small fishers like Alvin.

“THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO ADAPT.”

Alvin explains:

“Our trawls cannot go further than a meter. For upscale fishers, their trawls can reach about ten times our range. We can’t compete with that.”

Another factor that affects local fishers is the increasing solid waste and pollution in the water. Alvin adds: “In any place with this density of people, there is an increase in garbage. We no longer see the fish that we used to catch when we were young.”

These changes in the environment are deeply impacting the livelihoods of the small scale fishers. They have to double their effort to make the same profit and they are worried that one day there will be nothing left for them to harvest.

“TALKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEANS A LOT TO US. WE FEEL THAT
WE ARE BEING LOOKED AFTER. ”

CARE’s Partners for Resilience program has been working with Alvin and his community to strengthen their capacity to adapt to changes in their environment. They also better understand the impacts of climate change and the impact of pollution on their livelihoods. Alvin adds:

“During typhoons, our income used to stop. Our boats were not sturdy enough to withstand the waves. Through the trainings we received, we are now more prepared for these disasters.”

In addition to his job, Alvin is the leader of a group of small scale fishers who initiate dialogue with the local and city governments. As the head of this group, he talks to the other members about the challenges they face as small scale fishers. Alvin ensures that the local and city governments hear their concerns and work to resolve them. Alvin is grateful that the fishers can openly communicate their concerns with the authorities. Looking at the future, this is the right way forward.





Partners for Resilience

IN THE PHILIPPINES



Alliance members

CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Wetlands International



Main impact group(s)

Government sector, civil society organizations, the private sector and communities, MANATUTI River System Water Quality Management Area, and the cities of Malabon, Caloocan and Navotas.



CARE partners

CARE Philippines, Assistance and Cooperation for Resilience and Development Inc (ACCORD)



Where?

Metro Manila: Navotas city, Malabon city and Valenzuela city



Working with communities to create long term preparedness

The Philippines are one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, with rising sea levels threatening 70 percent of 1,500 municipalities nationwide. The Partners for Resilience (PfR) program is working in the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros (MANATUTI) River Basin, in the highly urbanized National Capital Region in Manila, specifically Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela. As part of the capital region, these cities are assumed to have sufficient technical capacity for disaster risk reduction. Although there is a system in place, there has been a lack of incorporation of coordination mechanisms in local development plans, both geographically and across levels of governance. This is particularly true for the urban poor, who are the ones most impacted by climate change and disasters, and most often excluded in the planning process.

With partner organization Assistance and Cooperation for Resilience and Development Inc (ACCORD), CARE works closely with urban communities so that their voices are heard by regional and national government. Additionally, communities are trained on a number of activities such as neighborhood level disaster preparedness, decreasing watershed deforestation, improving early warning systems and contingency plans, strengthening disaster risk reduction committees, and performing community drills. This enables the communities to conduct evacuations during hazards and better manage emergency situations, while ensuring the safety and upholding the dignity of the affected population.

In the MANATUTI river basin, PfR introduced a landscape-level Integrated Risk Management approach to the Water Quality Management Area (WQMA). This is a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at addressing water quality concerns, and the first to include Integrated Risk Management in its action plan. Contrary to the usual process, the updating of the action plan is consultative and participatory. Contiguous cities, government agencies, academics and representatives from the private sector use this platform to discuss and plan for activities which they can jointly implement. With the introduction of Integrated Risk Management, the WQMA action plan does not only refer to solid waste, liquid waste and informal settlement but also highlights the need to plan based on existing and projected disaster and climate risks, enabling the platform to plan long-term.



Landscape approach

CARE and ACCORD's work towards an Integrated Risk Management approach in the MANATUTI river basin is an example of a landscape approach: an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and holistic approach to help overcome barriers and contribute to effective risk management by connecting all stakeholders involved, starting with the communities at risk.

Together with Wetlands International, CARE Nederland developed *A Landscape Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction* in 7 steps:

1. Carry out an initial assessment of the risk landscape
2. Conduct an in-depth stakeholder analysis and power mapping
3. Stimulate multi-stakeholder processes and create coalitions of the willing
4. Conduct a collaborative, in-depth problem and solution analysis
5. Carry out collaborative (action) planning
6. Organize collaborative implementation
7. Promote adaptive management



BEEKEEPING QUEEN

Kelle Anyes from Uganda

40-year old Kelle is a beekeeper, farmer, and mother of four. She is a courageous and strong-willed woman living in northern Uganda. Although her life has not always been easy, she has adapted and remained resilient in the face of challenges. Today, she is proud of her expanding beehives and excited for her bright future.

The many trees, fertile grass and frequent rain in the Otuke district once allowed for a full and prosperous harvest. The landscape was a source of pride to Kelle and her community. Kelle remembers:

“This place used to have huge trees, it was bushy with lots of grass and vegetation. There used to be a lot of rain back then.”

Unfortunately, things have changed.

In 1986, Karamojong pastoralists attacked the Lango region in Uganda. They raided cattle and

killed civilians. Kelle and her family were forced to flee and were among the many people who moved to Internally Displaced People’s camps established by the Ugandan government. Inside, they could not continue farming activities because the soldiers wouldn’t allow them to leave. Kelle explains:

“Living in the camp was a challenging time. There was a lot of alcoholism, theft, and domestic violence. Children did not receive any education, the people were not able to grow crops or farm, and we did a lot of tree cutting.”

**“YOU KEEP GOING, KNOWING THAT
THINGS WILL BE BETTER. AND THEY DID.”**

When Kelle's community returned from the camps the village landscape had changed, and so had the people. Kelle: "What my community once owned was taken away, leaving us with nothing."

The community also began resorting to negative coping activities, like charcoal and bush burning. This affected soil fertility and reduced the annual harvest. Additionally, as a result of climate change, the dry season continued to lengthen, causing crops to dry out before the harvest season.



CARE's Partners for Resilience program helped Kelle and her community see the light at the end of the tunnel. Kelle stopped engaging in activities that negatively impacted the environment. She received training from CARE and its partner Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD) on the importance of preserving the swamps and planting trees. Kelle explains: "I participated in trainings on the importance of preserving nature and alternative income generating business like beekeeping."

The people in the community learned how to demarcate the wetlands and were trained on conservation agriculture - modern farming methods that did not negatively affect the land. Today, the community uses weather forecasts to collect information on what types of crops to plant based on the expected rainfall.

Along with village savings schemes, community members can now earn extra money for household expenses. As a result, they have started to reconstruct their houses and send their children to school.

Kelle now grows rice and cassava. She also earns money by keeping bees and selling the honey locally. Thinking about the future, Kelle plans to increase the number of beehives to garner a greater harvest.



"THE MENTALITY OF THE COMMUNITY HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED."



Partners for Resilience

IN UGANDA



Alliance members
CARE Nederland, Cordaid,
Netherlands Red Cross,
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate
Centre, Wetlands International



Main impact group(s)
Small scale agro-pastoralists,
with special attention to women
and youth



CARE partners
CARE Uganda, Facilitation for
Peace and Development (FAPAD)



Where?
Otuke district,
Lango sub region

Otuke district



From local to national: the journey towards an inclusive National Climate Change Bill

Uganda is a country with a population of about 35 million people. A large part of the population is dependent on agricultural production. The country is prone to multiple hazards, both natural and man-made. Drought, exacerbated by climate change, has been the leading hazard, affecting wide areas and significant numbers of people. Observed drought and climate change phenomena include: decreased, erratic and unpredictable rainfall; changes in rainfall patterns which make it more difficult to plan agricultural production; landslides; floods; and soil erosion resulting from strong winds during the longer dry periods. It is clear to Partners for Resilience that climate change is a global challenge requiring concerted effort, and that addressing climate change is essential to Integrated Risk Management. Thus, the PfR alliance in Uganda joined civil society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders to design the National Climate Change (NCC) bill in Uganda.




During the stakeholder consultations, PfR and other CSOs made contributions to the draft Climate Change bill, including the following recommendations:

- mainstream gender as a policy priority area;
- provide for sustainable use of forests and wetlands;
- promote disaster risk reduction and management;
- strengthen the capacity of the Uganda Meteorological Department into becoming an Authority;
- provide for enhanced coordination among ministries to mainstream climate change.

The experiences of communities during drought and floods were also shared in these meetings. By the end of the national consultations, many recommendations of civil society were included into the final bill.

Having the NCC bill in place is a huge milestone, but implementation still lies ahead. PfR wants a bill that integrates risk management and promotes mitigation and adaptation measures for sustainable development. The bill is one of the processes for mobilizing funds from central government to local government, and thus to vulnerable communities.

A photograph of a small green plant with several leaves growing out of a patch of cracked, dry brown soil. The soil is heavily fissured, indicating a lack of water. The plant is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame. The overall scene is a top-down view of the ground.

You have now read how communities and individuals have the strength to transform, prepare and recover in relation to the daunting challenges posed by climate change and disasters. But change is not easy, and it is important to also emphasize here that change takes hard work - and it takes time. It takes convincing and it takes effort of each and every one of us.

What connects all the stories is the community involvement. When they are involved, it means change has become embedded and widespread, and the community as a whole can make a huge step towards becoming more flexible and truly resilient.

BECAUSE YOU DO NOT BREAK, WHEN YOU KNOW HOW TO BEND.

About CARE

CARE works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty, and achieve social justice; focusing on the underlying causes of poverty. CARE Nederland is one of the member organizations of CARE International. The work of CARE Nederland is concentrated around four thematic areas: Humanitarian Emergencies, Climate Change and Resilience, Governance and Stability, and Women's Economic Empowerment. CARE Nederland hosts the CARE International Climate Change & Resilience Platform (CCRP). This platform leads and coordinates the integration of climate change and resilience across CARE's development and humanitarian work.

To learn more about CARE's work on climate change and resilience, go to careclimatechange.org



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. CARE contributes to a large number of SDGs, and our Partners for Resilience program places extra emphasis on the following ones:



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We bend, we do not break

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES DEALING WITH DISASTER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

