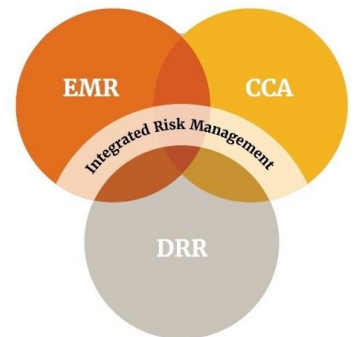


Partners for Resilience Programme

For ten years, CARE has worked with communities, civil society and governments in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mali, Philippines and Uganda to increase resilience in the face of rising climate and disaster risks, and to foster systemic change. In these low and lower middle-income countries, climate-related disasters and environmental degradation are leading to significant social and economic costs. Poor and vulnerable people become trapped in a vicious circle. And there is limited space for people to raise their voice and make their needs known to decision-makers. To change this, CARE supported 6,234,992 community members. These women and men are now covered by disaster risk reduction plans integrating climate and ecosystems, and many were helped to diversify their livelihoods. 366 Civil Society Organisations increased their capacity to lobby and advocate for community resilience. This resulted in 72 policies, guidelines and laws taking an integrated, inclusive approach, improving community resilience.

CARE's Partners for Resilience programming started in 2011, in partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross, Cordaid, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Wetlands International, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With community resilience as a starting point, the programme took an Integrated Risk Management (IRM) approach to increase community resilience by integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and ecosystem management and restoration (EMR).



CARE's PfR programme by country



Main activities

Disaster Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Management

CARE supported communities to improve their preparedness to and the prevention of potential disasters. By introducing measures such as early warning systems, risk assessments, mitigation plans, and construction of physical infrastructure, CARE assured the adoption of ecosystem management actions to avoid the disruption of community livelihoods and implementation of measures to cope with droughts, heat waves, floods, amongst other hazards. For example:

- CARE enhanced Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction across Ethiopia, Mali and Uganda. Communities engaged in the identification and analysis of risks through the [Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis](#) and preparation of plans to address their exposure to vulnerabilities while strengthening their response capacities.
- In Indonesia, CARE facilitated the design of Small-Scale Mitigation Plans following an inclusive process with community representatives that ensure [participation of women and marginalised groups](#). The Plans focused on DRR measures, resilient gardens, settled farming, spring water protection, erosion control, and seed banks.

Climate Change Adaptation

Communities tackled the effects of a changing climate by diversifying their income-generating activities and implementing climate-resilient agriculture practices, Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLA) and new technologies. CARE facilitated training on sustainable livelihood activities that decreased environmental degradation and increased food security. More specifically:

- CARE assisted Guatemalan communities in designing and implementing [micro-projects to strengthen community resilience](#): fuel-efficient cookstoves and reforestation strategies to reduce the impact of climate change; beekeeping to diversify income-generating activities; and multi-purpose nurseries and school gardens to disseminate climate-resilient agricultural practices.
- CARE trained communities on the VSLA methodology in Uganda, Ethiopia and Mali to deal with crop failure due to delayed or extreme rainfall. Money saved within the VSLAs acted as insurance to farmers and fostered social cohesion between women and raised awareness on the effects of climate change on food security.

CARE's gender focus

Throughout the activities, CARE's specific gender focus was a successful way to overcome prevailing discriminatory norms and bring women to leadership positions. CARE contributed to strengthening the PfR partners' gender programming through a gender review at programme level and the roll-out of the CARE gender marker across partners. In Mali and Uganda, empowered women gained management positions up to the municipal level and more than half IRM models were women that benefitted from skills to improve their livelihoods and preparedness to disasters. In Indonesia and Guatemala, policies were adjusted by including gender-sensitive village budgeting and monitoring and evaluation systems to hold governments accountable regarding gender in disaster risk policies.



Strengthening capacity of civil society and government

Strengthened advocacy capacity of CSOs, coupled with a strong knowledge base and IRM capacity of the government, led to an enabling environment to integrate climate, ecosystems and community needs into policies, plans and investments at different levels. As an example:

- CARE developed a [training module on gender sensitive IRM](#) for Community Empowerment Officers of the Ministry of Villages in Indonesia. CARE and its local partner CIS Timor revitalised district level Gender Working Groups, and developed the Women's Forum for Village Development Plans (MUSRENA).
- In Philippines, CARE and the local partner ACCORD conducted IRM mainstreaming sessions with Local Government Units to inform development planners and decision-makers on how to integrate DRR, climate, and ecosystems in the local development planning and budgeting processes. Local Government representatives, CSOs and community members increased their knowledge on IRM and had a deeper appreciation for an inclusive and harmonised development.

Influencing laws and policies

As a result of the lobby and advocacy of CSOs and communities towards national and local governments, multi-stakeholder alliances and platforms plans and policies that incorporated IRM principles were developed in an inclusive manner. Vulnerable communities became more resilient through tailored policies, laws and development plans addressing the needs of the community members, with particular attention for women and youth.

- CARE facilitated the creation of the Interagency Strategic Agenda (ISA) in Guatemala. The ISA is a space for dialogue for different government entities to articulate public policies, strengthen capacities and mobilise resources on risk reduction. With support from the Disaster Risk Management agency CONRED, CARE also introduced the ISA at territorial level, bringing in the private sector, civil society and academia.
- The Philippines National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Plan of 2020-2030, adopted by the Office of Civil Defence, integrated key IRM elements. CARE and local partners participated in its review and pushed for the integration of IRM in the national roadmap on reduction and management of disasters.

Sustainability

The successful models developed by CARE and partners, and the embedding of the Integrated Risk Management approach in civil society and in national laws and mechanisms, ensure that PfR's integrated approach is continued and serves as a point of reference for local and national strategies. For instance, in Mali the established community coalitions keep lobbying for integration of IRM in municipal planning and in national DRR law, and in Indonesia the IRM approach has defined new models of collaboration between the government and civil society. In addition, the IRM approach has served as basis for CARE's Increasing Resilience Guidance Note and continues to inform the broader work on resilience in CARE worldwide.

Lessons & recommendations

- ♦ Models for scaling. The programme has yielded models that can be scaled and applied elsewhere. Two models worth mentioning are the coalition model in Mali, where coalitions of user groups from local to provincial level have been effective in reducing conflicts over resources and ensuring that voices of fishers, pastoralists and farmers are considered, and the interagency strategic agenda in Guatemala, where a common agenda with explicit targets and strategies defined together with government actors guaranteed implementation of actions.
- ♦ Working in partnership across levels and programmes. The global focus of PfR has shown to be relevant for linking local needs to national policies and global commitments, enabling evidence-based advocacy at global fora. Working in partnership was key to advocacy successes and sustainability. For example in Indonesia, where CARE targeted national actors, while partner CIS Timor worked at the provincial and district level.
- ♦ Localisation was key when COVID struck. PfR target communities, through the organisational structures set up through the programme, became vectors of information and needs. Similarly, local governments that were involved in PfR were able to adjust and adapt faster to the new situation, for example in the Philippines.
- ♦ Influencing investments requires a targeted approach. The most significant achievements have been recorded in the domains of policy and practice, whereas in the area of influencing investment, achievements have been more limited. The private sector can play a key role in the approval of IRM-related policies and laws. This needs specific expertise and a targeted approach.

Key publications & tools

- ♦ [We Bend, We Do Not Break](#) - highlighting how the implementation of an IRM approach leads to social transformation and communities prepared to deal with a diversity of shocks.
- ♦ [Climate Adaptation Finance: Fact or Fiction?](#) - an assessment of whether rich countries' reporting of adaptation finance is accurate and genuinely contributes to climate adaptation.
- ♦ [A Landscape Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction in 7 Steps](#) - synthesis of main characteristics of the landscape approach, outlining seven concrete steps.
- ♦ [Integrated Risk Management explained](#) - CARE's approach to IRM, key characteristics of the approach and how IRM links to international frameworks.
- ♦ [Integrated Risk Management Law and Policy Checklist](#) - a practical checklist to identify areas for improvement within current legislation, policies and implementation in relation to the integration of DRR, climate, ecosystems, gender and community-focus.
- ♦ [PfR's Flagship Report "Local action, global ambition"](#) - shows the major results achieved in PfR's ten years of working on Integrated Risk Management.

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PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

Working together on disasters, climate, ecosystems