



## Overview of CARE's climate change work

CARE's approach to adaptation is based on addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability to climate change, which are often strongly interlinked with the underlying causes of poverty. CARE has over 70 climate change projects in more than 30 countries, and a growing proportion of our development and humanitarian programming integrates climate change considerations.

More about our programming, tools and approaches can be found at [www.careclimatechange.org](http://www.careclimatechange.org).

## Responses to the Workshop Questions

1. *Given the diverse set of indicators that currently exist to measure and evaluate adaptation, how can communities, countries and development and adaptation agencies build on a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience?*

CARE's approach to adaptation is focussed on addressing the needs of those most vulnerable to climate change impacts, and interventions are based on a participatory analysis of vulnerability and capacity. We adapt our approach to the local context, and indicators of success in one region may not be indicators of success in another. The information needs of local stakeholders may be different than those of development actors for donor reporting, so a balance must be struck between monitoring community experiences and perspectives and monitoring progress towards achievement of results identified in project logical frameworks.

In our work, we seek to address the social & equity dimensions of resilience and sustainability of resilience over time. This means that:

- It is important to look at *who* defines indicators of success. Adaptation involves trade-offs that can provide benefit to some at the expense of others. How do we involve women and men, and those most vulnerable, politically and socially marginalised, in defining successful adaptation? Do indicators capture whether resilience is equitable?
- It is also important to address the sustainability of resilience over time. Adaptation is a long term process, but many interventions are time-bound. While adaptation projects may have immediate and important outcomes, but how do we measure sustainability and impact over time? How do we ensure that capacity development and learning are central to project activities?

In partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), CARE has developed the Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning (PMERL) manual for CBA practitioners. PMERL provides a platform for communities to articulate their own needs, and framework for communities and development stakeholders to develop a common understanding of progress towards resilience. It encourages ownership of and accountability for the M&E process by communities themselves, and promotes continuing reflection and learning to inform adaptation planning. It also promotes accountability of service providers to communities. It helps practitioners and communities to understand whether CBA achievements are matching expectations, and whether CBA achievements are the right ones for the most vulnerable. It also builds understanding of whether CBA is reaching the right scale. Importantly, it lays the foundation for capacity building and learning for sustained adaptation outcomes over time.

- 2. How can a framework be created that links individual assessments with national level assessments to broaden the focus from the means of achieving outcomes (individual interventions) to the desired end result (countries' becoming less vulnerable and having more adaptive capacity)?*

The challenge lies in creating a framework across temporal and spatial scales, to understand whether adaptation is achieving the right outcomes, and whether it is being done in the right way. Such a framework would need to address both the adaptation process (how adaptation is done - planning, capacity development, policy development and revision awareness raising, etc) and results (are options cost effective, impacting the most vulnerable, achieving intended outcomes and avoiding maladaptation). The framework would also need to emphasise iteration and learning, to analyse changing information in order to continue to select appropriate interventions.

Lessons can be drawn from the multi-track M&E approach for Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB), of which CARE is a partner. ARCAB is a long-term program that aims to address knowledge gaps through the generation of longitudinal data and evidence of effectiveness of CBA across scale. It helps ARCAB partners consolidate individual assessments to understand how their project activities contribute to long-term reductions in vulnerability and improvements in adaptive capacity in the communities they work with, and provides a framework of key indicators at impact, outcome and output levels to enable partners to track changes in climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity over time and at scale.

It is also important to draw lessons from good practice in impact evaluation, as well as emerging approaches. For instance, CARE and nef reviewed the economic case for community based adaptation using Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology. It shows clear social, economic and environmental benefits of CBA across a wide range of modelled scenarios and interventions, when comparing systematic adaptation to a situation with no support to adaptation.

- 3. How can results from M&E be reported and disseminated so as to ensure that they are fed back into the respective adaptation process but also to allow for lessons learned and good practices identified to be shared with the wider community of adaptation planners and practitioners?*

The nature of adaptation as an ongoing, long-term process that requires flexibility, ongoing integration of new knowledge and action at multiple levels creates challenges in developing M&E systems that generate meaningful insights for project stakeholders, progress and adaptive management. Both PMERL and ARCAB provide examples of how this can be done at both community and practitioner level. Platforms such as the Asian Community of Practice for Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation (SEA change COP), events such as the annual Community-based Adaptation Conference, and organisation-wide networks such as CARE's Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network also play a role.

A key consideration for CARE is how we ensure that our broader humanitarian and development programming is consistent with a world where climate change imposes new constraints, exacerbates existing vulnerability and increases the burden on those already vulnerable. In our adaptation projects, we are working to draw lessons to inform our broader development work, and deepen our understanding of what climate change means for the people we work with. More broadly, this means that it is important that adaptation and development planners and practitioners are strongly linked to ensure that adaptation is learning from development best practice, and is feeding into broader development programming.

## References

### *PMERL Manual*

[http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/CARE\\_PMERL\\_Manual\\_2012.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/CARE_PMERL_Manual_2012.pdf)

<http://www.seachangecop.org/node/1859>

### *ARCAB*

<http://www.arcab.org/index.php>

<http://www.seachangecop.org/node/1969>

### **Counting on uncertainty: The economic case for community based adaptation in North-East Kenya**

Policy Brief -

[http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/PolicyBrief\\_Why\\_CBA\\_Makes\\_Economic\\_Sense\\_July12.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/PolicyBrief_Why_CBA_Makes_Economic_Sense_July12.pdf)

Full Report -

[http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/Counting\\_on\\_Uncertainty\\_July12.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/Counting_on_Uncertainty_July12.pdf)