

Partners for Resilience

Report January-December 2012



1 Introduction

This second year progress report provides the status of the Partner for Resilience programme in Ethiopia and consolidated based on the inputs derived from 2012 annual report of individual partners that covers community and national level achievements. It is primarily quantitative based narrative and substantiated with description of major activities, initiatives and comparison made against the target and baseline data.

This annual reporting emphasis on outputs and outcomes of the progresses scored under the three strategic directions and regarding initiatives related to the learning agenda. It reflects the attempt made by respective individual partners' that significantly contributed for the progress attained which was also described in the first six months report of 2012.

The report has four sections. The first two sections are about intra-organizational developments that impact on the functioning of individual partners and the country team. The third section provides the progress made in the underscored period based on the output and outcome level program performance framework that highlights the main achievements in 2012. This section also narrates progresses of sample activities of respective partners in line with the three strategic objectives and provides empirical account of lessons learnt. The fourth section also highlights status and initiatives regarding quality, efficiency and sustainability of the programme in this reporting period.

2 Part I intra-organisational developments

2.1 Organisational Developments

CARE Ethiopia & SSD:

During this reporting period, effort has been made to translate the knowledge and skill gained through various trainings package facilitated by the country team jointly with WL, RCCC and IIRR on integration of DRR/CCA/EMR, outcome mapping and baseline survey and participatory video documentation. These various capacity building supports obtained helped CARE and SSD to share vision on resilience and livelihoods approaches to other partners and used as guiding principle to implement the agreed activities smoothly.

Additionally, attempts are made to translate the experience of DRR/CCA/ESMR approaches of PfR program, accordingly, it has also been replicated to similar CARE Ethiopia supported Water, sanitation and Hygiene Transformations for Enhanced Resilience (WASH) project area of two Districts of Afar region. Currently, a field and head office level project team has been involved in the capacity building supports to communities, boundary partners, and programme management team of SSD.

As highlighted in the mid-year report, there is no significant change reported concerning the technical staff at organizational (CARE and SSD) level, except the PfR programme officer who resigned from CARE head office still vacant.

Despite occurrence of unexpected natural hazard incidence, the commitment, participation and support of communities and local community institutions has still actively continued. The project relations with the government and partners are healthy. The implementations of other activities of the project are also being underway smoothly.

Cordaid & AFD, ACORD

Cordaid long term partners, AFD and ACORD, have made some important internal developments to improve their ability to deliver the envisaged project results. Both of them have assigned and recruited qualified and experienced field staff in terms ensuring professional mix to fit into the key thematic areas which the project revolves so to deliver the envisaged project results.

As part of important organizational developments, ACORD recruited new country director and community development facilitators and reviewed the five years strategic documents. The additional new force is regarded to speed up the implementation the project and sharpened the focus of the intervention. Accordingly, the organization has built its internal capacity and competence to mainstream CMDRR/CCA/EMR approach across the Pan African program and urban programs in Ethiopia. As a result, climate change adaptation has emerged as a priority theme in the ACORD's new Pan African strategic document.

In consultation with country team for the need to enhance project implementation performances, ACORD and AFD started to develop enhanced strategies to maximize project implementation performance standards. Accordingly, effort has been also made to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of project management and coordination capacity constraints through facilitation of various trainings, provision of required technical support, recruiting water technician & financial expert. Because of these, in second biannual reporting period, attempts are made and finalized all the carried over physical activities from 2011. The organizations committed to mainstream & replicate the approach across the organization and within the other development schemes, & beyond.

Apart from improving existing PfR programme performance, the important internal development regarding PfR is to look into the PfR induced effects at ACORD and in the country. Very recently (end of 2012), the PfR products are used as input to develop climate change agenda and programmatic action development for ACORD Pan African programme including ACORD Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Thus, the development of the PfR sprite across the organization gradually dictating the organization development direction and programming function of ACORD at different levels. Beyond the project area and boundary partners, ACORD has increasingly expanded in translating the lesson learnt from PfR. It is worthy to mention that, the products and best experiences of the PfR has been used a source of evidence in the recent national Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy development as well as regional and local government led watershed management intervention.

Because of strict application of practicable experiences and participatory nature of the approach, AFD and ACORD have managed and committed for active involvement of key stakeholders (community and government partners) in all cycle of the project implementation. Both of them have drawn a lesson of broad spectrum participation of relevant stakeholders, which means, it is a key for project success and sustainability.

As part of participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning tools to track overall performance of the project, Cordaid and implementing partners have taken up their experience from other projects of facilitating participatory risk review and reflection process (PRRRP) and customized this to the PfR projects at grass root and district level through regular sessions/meetings. To this effect, to measure project progress and include reflections of beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders, PRRRP was adopted and employed as participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning/PMEL tool by AFD and ACORD. Accordingly, the community openly demonstrated as to lend itself to community self-monitoring and evaluation. In addition, ERCS, SSD, AFD and ACORD facilitated review/consultative meetings, which further strengthened the involvement of relevant stakeholders at all levels of project cycle management and agreed to continue this on a regular basis throughout the project period.

ERCS

With the need to be an efficient, effective and responsive humanitarian organization with up-to-date and integrated systems, congruent leadership and skilled and motivated staff; ERCS has conducted an organizational change processes. The change process started with recruiting a new highly experienced and qualified Secretary General and two Deputy Secretary Generals. Organizational restructuring and staffing has been successfully completed. Food security and climate change adaptation programme coordination has been positioned into a permanent unit under the Disaster Management Department in

the new structure. The Society has shown a determination to strengthen its execution capacity by means of recruiting and assigning an experienced department manager and experts in carrying out programmes of the Society.

The OCAC document indicates the importance of improved service delivery; and increased beneficiary and stakeholder satisfaction with the service of the society and Introducing an integrated performance management system; Branch capacity building; and Refocusing projects and programmes. OCAC findings indicated ERCS's commitment to ensure this organization remains a forward-looking humanitarian society. Refocusing projects and programmes and improving its implementation capacity to be able to satisfy its commitments are the way forward, among the others. The stakeholder consultations and its Governors and Executive Board have endorsed this initiative.

The ERCS higher officials designed quick win strategy to address backlogs and ensure effective and efficient implementation of ongoing programmes. DSG for operation has taken the lead in ensuring appropriate implementation of the programmes by designing monthly departmental and sectoral meetings to discuss progress, challenges faced, actions taken and recommend the way forward.

As part of the Strategy, ERCS considered strengthening of food security and climate change programme division at head quarter and programme management capacity of its respective branch offices at all levels. Monitoring and supervision system put in place to follow up the implementation of the programmes is helping the management to be aware about the progress. PfR programme is benefiting from this ERCS change initiative and the improvement in its achievement is recorded.

PfR programme is taken as a customized instrument to support change in ERCS and its implementation taken to for by the ERCS management and programme staff. ERCS has also considered branches capacity building and empowering them to the more as they the best placed structure of ERCS to serve the vulnerable communities at scale and on need basis.

This change is facilitating implementation of PfR programmes and by the knowledge management work catalyzed by PfR, the national society is developing strategy for food security and climate resilience integrating DRR/CCA/EMR approach.

Wetlands International

After attaining the legal registration with the Kenya NGO Board in December 2011, Wetlands International has been able to establish a project office with three staff in Nairobi, operating under the Wetlands International African (WIA) - Regional Office based in Dakar, Senegal. Wetland International Africa office has continued to set-up its

staffing capacity to enable better implementation of activities. Reportedly, 2012 first semester period has been marked by ups and downs while reorganising from a set-up mode to a more operational mode. In year 2013, Wetland International Africa office, in Kenya, has not reported with regard to any expected change at organizational level.

In this process the office has undergone some office staff turn-over of between 2-3 persons at any one time. Project work for the period May-June continued albeit constrained by reduced manpower as a lot of effort also went onto the recruitment process, reorganisation of office set-up; operational; and new staff orientation. By mid-June and mid-October new Administrative Assistant and Programme Associate were joined the organization, respectively.

The office also engaged an MSc student of Lund University in Sweden, as an intern for three months - August to November, who completed the internship successfully. This internship was made possible through the Junior Researcher Internship Programme of the RCCC.

Wetlands International organised an international strategic workshop that took place in India in April for all WI staff working on PfR from all countries. The staff shared the skills and experiences on how to incorporate ecosystem approaches into the DRR processes. The capacity building the needs of Wetlands International were also reviewed for the network of offices in DRR and community resilience building work. In September, the office team also undertook a three-day safety and security training facilitated by WIA. The training took the staff through the six steps of the Circle of Security Manual developed by the Centre for Safety and Development (CSD).

Red Cross and Crescent Climate Center

There have not been any significant external factors effecting the Climate Centre's ability to implement its programs. Internally, the Climate Centre's East Africa program officer resigned at the end of June in order to take another position within the Red Cross movement. Her handover was done during July 2012.

Several external projects that the Climate Centre is responsible for have had positive synergies with PfR Uganda. In particular, a grant from the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) in Asia funded the elaboration of a set of guidelines called the Minimum Standards for Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction. This document has been disseminated within PfR, and is a resource for PfR Ethiopia.

2.2 Changes in External Environment

Drought

In the CARE Ethiopia/SSD operational area, delayed “Sugum” rains (March – April) affected the project implementation especially for small scale irrigation scheme construction in the first six months of the project period. The River used for this purpose dried up for a period of 4 months and therefore, SSD had fetched water from 15kms away from the site to continue the construction work the irrigation scheme. There was scarcity of causal labour due to population mobility in search of water and livestock feed. Some households were engaged in cash for work in PSNP to cover their household food shortfalls. Food prices and wage labour increased during this period. SSD readjusted its wage labour from 20 to 25 birr (almost one euro) daily per person. The situation has significantly improved (i.e. population returned, river flowing and causal labour available).

The ERCS 2011 drought response operation was also highly demanding the close involvement and follow up by the ERCS officials, again slowing down implementation of the programme

Administrative issues

AFD and ACORD project implementation were delayed due to the extended time taken by the SNNP and Oromia Regions Government signatory bodies to review the proposal before signing the official agreement.

The issuance of the new legislation pertaining to Ethiopia Civil Society organizations and their implementation modalities also contributed to delayed implementation of the project. This new legislation which redefined several working modalities, of which the distribution of direct and indirect project costs (70/30) is the one. As a result of previous budgeting practice, the administrative costs were now above the threshold of 30%. Because the project proposals were prepared and approved by Cordaid before this legislation has faced a challenge to arrive at an agreement with the Charities and Societies Agency (of Ethiopia) as per its new 70/30 budgeting ratio. Several meetings were held between AFD and the Agency to create understanding and to go ahead approval about the project. It is only with great difficulty that such understanding is created, resulting in delay of project implementation early project period.

Local government staff turnover is common everywhere in the country but it matters most when it applies to professionals whose analytical comments are crucial and hence contribute utmost facilitation of project approval process. This issue of staff turnover was one of the factors that contributed to the delay of the project approval of AFD and ACORD, in turn, affected the early activation of the project implementation.

Security

During the reporting period there were no considerable security issues reported that are assumed to negatively affect implementation of the project activities..

2 Part II – functioning of the country team

As compared to 2011, the country team has shown significant improvement in implementing joint activities. The country team maintained and strengthened the functional coordination mechanism in terms of: undertaking regular coordination meetings, exchanging relevant information, facilitating country joint activities and capacity building trainings/workshops, and linking PfR with other likeminded partners. At this regular monthly coordination meeting where individual partner's progress and experiences shared each other; discuss on pertinent partnership issues and taking decisions collectively. As a result, member partners have jointly reviewed country PfR plan of actions and reports through which individual partners and collective commitments enhanced.

Effort has been made to enhance technical knowledge and skill of PfR member partner's and key stakeholders' staff on integration of CCA and EMR into DRR tools and be able to cascade the same in their respective operating areas at different level. To this effect, the team executed PfR project and local government staff capacity building (in terms of harmonizing different approaches in the implementation process) created a good opportunity to share lessons & experiences, particularly in the areas where partners are motivated to gain knowledge and skill of integrating CCA and EMR into DRR tools and its effective application for furthering their alliance..

In this regard, the Country team jointly with WLI-Kenya and RCCC- Uganda facilitated training workshop/ meetings, and information sharing on DRR/ CCA/EMR tools and weather forecast, as well as exposure visits conducted jointly with Kenya and Uganda Red cross team. In order to further strengthen technical implementation capacity of PfR country team members, Cordaid as a country lead, jointly with HQ, The Hague (Cordaid Global CMDRR Advisor) facilitated a workshop on linking and learning: focusing on harmonization of basic minimum of DRR/CCA/EMR tools for effective planning and implementation process.

The country team has also administered outsourced joint activities through binding MOU among alliance partners financing as per the % their budget shares, despite the challenge in refunding from partners side (the case in point is ERCS). Reportedly by all individual member partners, the involvement of their respective senior management team is an integral part of the PfR country team function since its inception in 2011.

Since then the team has been the PfR program implementation unified decision maker at the country level.

The Country team shared a concept note on the research in indigenous knowledge assessment. Similarly, a discussion was initiated, a concept note shared and agreed with ACCRA and Bahir Dar University to explore opportunities in the areas of integrating the DRR/CCA/EMR approach for better synergy, for instance, to use the outcome of research for policy briefs and dialogue. However, the team suggested that this to be further discussed in its implementation modality and to explore options to be managed in 2013.

The country PfR lead also attends the Royal Netherland Embassy bi-annual NGO coordination and information meetings, thus taking the opportunity to inform the Embassy about the purpose and progress about the PfR program.

3 Part III – progress on programme implementation

3.1 Activities under the three strategic directions

In this period of reporting, all possible effort has been made by individual partner’s,, through these commitment, it is evident that they have registered significant progresses under key strategic objectives and initiatives related to learning agendas as compared to the previous two semesters. Please refer to the sections below quantitatively described outcomes and outputs level programme performance monitoring framework and the inserted sample activities under each of the strategic direction for details.

# of beneficiaries reached: 47,385	
# of female beneficiaries reached: 21.717	
1a	# of mitigation measures implemented per community: 4
1b	% of community mitigation measures environmentally sustainable: 82%
1c	# of community members reached with DRR/CCA/EMR activities:47,385
1.1a	# of communities that conducted climate trend risk mapping: 17
1.1b	# of communities that developed collective risk red. plans based on climate trend risk mapping:17
1.1c	# of community members covered by risk plans: 38,835
1.2a	# community members are trained in ecosystem-based livelihood approaches: 2160

1.2b # Community members have undertaken actions to adapt their livelihoods:
11,489

Under the first strategic direction, partners have carried out a range of several interventions which include enhancing knowledge and skills of target communities on DRR/CCA/EMR issues to be able to deal with local hazards; promoting various types of mitigation measures; and ecosystem based livelihoods promotion through increased involvement of relevant stakeholders. In this regards, all member partners managed to register encouraging achievements. The empowerment efforts made to target group enabled to mobilize the mass for local level development initiatives. Please refer the below sample activities taken from each implementing partners:

Application of participatory disaster risk assessment: *AFD carried out risk assessment in 8 targeted communities: During the assessment PRA tools were used to gather and analyze information. The assessment included such parameters as hazard, vulnerability and capacity.*

The major local hazards identified were drought, animal disease, human diseases and resource based ethnic conflict. Drought ranked first across all the targeted communities followed by animal diseases. The vulnerability context was checked out by the targeted community members through identification of element at risk against the already identified hazards. Capacity assessment was also carried out and gaps in terms of knowledge and skills, availability and use of water resource, in the management of natural resources, human and animal disease prevention and mitigation practices were identified. DRR measures were also developed in the form of development interventions and contingency planning. As a product of the assessment, community vision maps, risk maps, risk calendar resource maps, community DRR development and contingency plans were generated. All the 8 targeted communities were facilitated to develop community managed action plans. The action plans indicate the activities against where to do, when to do, with whom to do, resource requirement for the action (internal and external) responsible body or agency for the actions. The risk assessment was held in AFD operational areas and facilitated by targeted communities in collaboration with local government line offices.

Livelihoods diversification through saving and credit women groups: *The formation, training, provision of funds to women groups, monitoring and backstopping/technical support were key achievements for this reporting period. SSD conducted awareness creation with the local leaders and the women groups on livelihood diversifications. Success stories are shared and successful women (role model) share their stories during these events and this stimulates the women's participation. The criteria for being member of the income generation groups are: active poor households, volunteerism and being able to save weekly.*

Although it is too early to measure the results at this early project life stage, as a result of the livelihoods support, 47 target pastoral women saving group members have been empowered through trainings and technical supports on knowledge and skill of cash saving and cash management for emergencies. Except three defaulters all saving groups are continuing their regular self cash mobilization reached to be ETB 11,000 birr. The preliminary assessment findings of small business activities of these 47 women revealed that SAC beneficiary women have got an estimated profit ranging from birr 450 to 1000 per/woman.

The group members saved 5 birr weekly before the injection of cash by SSD and this process lasted for 3 months with closed follow up and guidance, savings and business plan of the group members. SSD provided a grant of 32,000 birr to the 2 groups. Each member receives a loan of 1300 birr (\$73.00) from their group. SSD injected the cash in June 2012.

Access to water: *The pond constructed in ACORD operational area was one of the identified activities of community development plan on their risk assessment as a strategy of solving water shortage. The specific site selection was done in which water shortage is prominent out of the three sub PA divisions with mass community agreement through CMDRR committee's facilitation. District water office technically supervised the identified site, its feasibility and followed up from design up to completion of the pond. The pond is upgraded to volume of 6,000m³ holding capacity. Community contributed 20% of the total cost of pond rehabilitation. The community fully participated in labor and 100% contributed construction materials & fencing the pond area to keep animal intrusion and hygienic condition. Before rehabilitation of the pond, communities fetch traveling about 8km and more for human and livestock access at pick dry time. Its rehabilitation reduced time spent in water fetching; burden of women at the same time increased the availability access of water from one month to six months (human consumption). The pond serves directly to 150HH or 775 individuals which counts 22% of the total population.*

Ecosystem based mitigation measures are key for poverty reduction: *In ERCS operating districts, communities in 7 kebele reclaimed 70 hectares of degraded land in four micro watersheds by constructing physical soil and water conservation structures. 2000 members of the community participated in the construction of 142 km hillside terraces, 10,433 trenches, 25,280 micro-basins, 8,587 eyebrow basins, and 226 m³ check dams on degraded hillside areas in the target kebele on cash for work basis. These physical structures reduce runoff, conserve soil and concentrate nutrients and enhance water infiltration and retention. As such, the micro watersheds which were barren and unproductive are regenerating; soil depth improving, the growth of different local grasses /milky species are increasing, some local trees are regenerating and the survival and growth of newly planted tree seedlings is improving. The conserved area enclosed by the*

community is also recovering faster rehabilitation and restoring the disturbed ecosystem, as a result, some areas becoming a habitat of different birds and wild animal species. The communities in the target areas planted 810,000 assorted multi-purpose tree seedlings (470,000 produced by ERCS support alone in Ebinat and 340,000 in collaboration with Gorogutu woreda agricultural development office) in the rehabilitated micro watersheds. According to a survival rate assessment initiated by ERCS and done by the woreda agriculture and rural development office in November 2012, 95% of seedlings survived and adapted well to the harsh environment.

2a	# Communities where partner NGOs/CBOs have facilitated access to knowledge on disaster trends, climate projections, ecosystem data: 25
2b	# network/umbrella organisations, developed and active: 3
2c	% partner NGOs/CBOs engage in structured dialogue with peers and government on DRR/CCA/EMR: 27%
2.1a	# (Partner) NGO/CBO staff trained on DRR/CCA/EMR: Totally 118 partners and local government staff were trained.
2.1b	# (Partner) NGO/CBO have established cooperation with knowledge & resource organizations (e.g. meteorological institutes, universities, etc: 4
2.2a	# Organisations (including non-PfR) involved in DRR/CCA/EMR coalitions: 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERCS involved with NLRC PfR programme and Austrian Red Cross DRR programme in DRR/CCA/EMR coalitions. • SSD has conducted participatory M&E event on the performance of the project in targeted communities in which 3 relevant district governments took part. • With the interest to ensure community and stakeholder participation to monitor project progress and have spectrum of partners and beneficiary reflection, AFD and ACORD adopted and in place Participatory Risk Review and Reflection sessions as part of monitoring tools in targeted communities in which 5 relevant government offices participates regularly in their respective areas.
2.2b	# of times DRR/CCA/EMR related topics on agenda of platforms/ networks: 4

Capacity building is one key thematic areas of the Climate Proof-Disaster Risk Reduction Project. In order to enhance the capacity of the local community organizations and its institutionalization development, partners facilitated various supports to better understand and they can apply local knowledge based lasting solutions to alleviate those local hazard risks with their own resources and the available minimum assistance from external

sources. Partners also facilitated various capacity building training/workshop for partners (CSOs/GOs).

In this regards, Partners supported the local CSOs/GOs; community organizations and their institutional development in DRR/CCA/EMR issues to the level where they be able to own the process of implementation and application of CCA and EMR into DRR tools as a result to effectively lead and manage the programme. Additionally, constructing and furnishing local level community DRR information centres with IEC materials for better learning and sharing exchanges in most targeted communities, thereby increasing resilience and enhancing community readiness and management.

Similarly, the community made an effort to maximize multi use of community DRR information centres in a relation to a demonstration site for local skill /technology transfer, awareness creation centre, to facilitate participatory risk review and consultative discussions meetings, for other events for the project communities and local institutions were planned. Please refer the below sample activities per each partners.

Training on DRR/CCA/EMR and mass mobilization for ecosystem based mitigation measures: *SSD facilitated DRR/CCA and EMR training for 60 people (of the participants 40 were members of the four DRR committees 8 were local leaders and 12 from the local governments. the DRR committees facilitated and accomplished public works through the mobilization of the community to achieved action plans developed at the end of the CMDRR training. Accordingly, ecosystem management based mitigation measures like 58 hectare rangelands area closures and 5km soil bunds construction activities have been executed by free labor participation of communities are cited as exemplary achievements in the three project communities. The community accomplished these activities without financial costs to the project.*

Local level institutional capacity development through constructing and equipping Community DRR information centre: *With full participation of relevant government partners, to this effect ACORD managed and constructed 8 community DRR information centres (4 were constructed in previous cordaid funded pilot project phased out in 2010). All DRR information centres furnished with office furniture's. Similarly, six centres equipped with IEC/audiovisual equipments with solar charger for the former. This enables the DRR committees to properly document the learning in relation to DRR/CCA/EMR and share their experience for others. This empowered them in terms of taking collective decisions and actions.*

Enhancing proactive/early response initiatives through people-cantered EWS and contingency plan putting in place: *Early-warning system is an essential part of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction. Strengthening the existing /traditional early*

warning system will be considered in the project as important step towards establishing reliable early warning system at grass root level. In AFD targeted areas, the study of the establishment of people-centred EWS is outsourced and the study is accomplished. The study identified government and community level EWS, the gaps between the two systems and the opportunities to align the two. Efforts made to link to relevant Government departments and other stakeholders involved in early warning initiatives for planning. Training on early warning data collection, reporting and participatory planning facilitated. The study document will be used as a resource material for other to adopt. It was agreed with the targeted communities and local government, to operationalize and make functional system with close follow up in the following years of the project life.

Further, community level contingency plan is prepared to help communities to proactively respond to potential disaster events in the locality. This contingency planning work was outsourced to be carried out by consultant for the eight communities and then to get aligned with local level government preparedness plan so that the two parties operate in harmony with each other. The contingency plan document is prepared for the 8 communities and will be used for participatory action in the following years of project life.

ERCS has established cooperation with knowledge and resource organisations like Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority and RCRC Climate Centre. One intern from RCRCCC assisted ERCS in undertaking climate risk mapping in the target kebele in Gorogutu woreda. RCRCCC provided ERCS professional support in land cover change using satellite imagery information based on coordinates of the ERCS areas of interventions collected in collaboration with woreda agriculture and rural development office. The map showed significant land cover change in 2012 compared to the 2008 image

ERCS participated in green economy advocacy week organized by EEPA in July 2012. Low carbon zoning in Ethiopia, climate resilience, financing green economy initiatives and implementation of NAPA (National Adaptation Plan of Action) were discussed among other issues in this platform. These are in line with integration of DRR/CCA/EMR.

3a	# of processes started to reduce identified national and local institutional obstacles to DRR/CCA/EMR activities in the communities (in terms of communication between departments, appropriateness of laws) : 3 Building up on the 2012 initiatives, the country PfR team started drafting 2013 planning on capacity building for joint engagement with ACCRA that contribute for this third strategic direction.
3b	% of increased local government budgets in target areas on either early warning, mitigation of natural hazards and/or natural resource mgt on community level: Currently, the government of Ethiopia is in the process of finalising the national DRM

policy, which will include a Strategic Program Investment Framework, which will be used for government and development partners to finance DRM/DRR activities in the country. In addition, ecosystem management and restoration based "Green development campaign" programme is in place, which focuses on awareness raising in climate change, community risks assessment, rehabilitation of environmental degradation, development and maintenance of rural infrastructure. The Ethiopian government has also ratified the climate resilient green economy strategy. These government programmes complement the DRR/CCA/EMR approaches of the PfR programme. These are areas where we need to explore strategic opportunities to position PfR within the available structures and resources. However, at this level of PfR, this outcome area is not yet fully dealt with.

3.1a # Governments/ institutions reached with advocacy activities by Civil Society and their networks and platforms: **10**

In this reporting period, 10 Governments/ institutions are reached with advocacy activities by policy dialogue country lead agency by Cordaid/ACORD and ERCS.

3.1b # of (local) government institutions actively engaged in activities (meetings/field visits/training): **13**

District government line offices were actively engaged from the inception of the project up to this level in terms of participating review meetings, field visits, trainings, and implementation of the programme activities. The government offices determined to jointly discharge their roles for successful achievement of the project objectives. These includes most trainings and other activities, notably facilitated by the country team such as outcome mapping, CMDRR, and DRR/CCA/EMR integration trainings, baseline survey and disaster risk analysis.

3.1c # of countries, where the connection between DRR, CCA and EMR has explicitly been mentioned in official government documents: So far so, the connection between DRR, CCA and EMR has not yet explicitly been mentioned in official government documents..Thus, it is too early to reach to this level of the programme achievement.

Under the third strategic direction, partners have been striving to link CBOs/ community institutions with local leaders, local government officials /decision makers, knowledge centres and research institutes for the effective inclusion and management of disaster risk reduction, CCA and ESMR issues in development programs and to increase participation of civil society organizations in service delivery.

Up on the technical support provided from CTNL and NLRC senior staff, during their joint field monitoring visit in July 2012, the country team members were agreed to look for possible areas to work together with regional, national, and local level government and other NGOs partners through establishing forums/coordination meetings /task forces on DRR/CCA/EMR issues. As part of improving the achievement in this regards, country team planned to facilitate training in policy dialogue and documentation in 2013. However, suggested by partners, implementing partners' capacity is one of the factors which contributed for the delayed implementation of this strategic direction.

In the reporting period, Please refer the below sample activities for third strategic direction:

Learning and documentation: *In this reporting period, in SSD impact area, as part of initiatives in relation to the learning agenda, various consultative meetings, and training workshops were planned and conducted. Accordingly, some of the DRR/CCA/ESM processes are being recorded and documented and shared with other development actors using different outlets. The monthly meeting of the DRR committee and project staff has contributed a lot in updating the risk assessment document and revise achievements and challenges of DRR system regularly. The support SSD received from CARE staff in organizing training, experience sharing and the accompanying field visits has contributed a lot.*

The visit paid by the local government officials, experts and pastoralists has been instrumental in sharing experiences and lessons on saving mobilization and NRM activities by community participation and its contribution to local self development endeavours being exerted by the PfR Dewe CPDRR project. The different events are recorded with photos and the project is to further undertake a documentation of best practices and lessons learned.

Initiatives' expanding the product and best experiences beyond the PfR: *Beyond the project area and boundary partners, ACORD has increasingly expanded in translating the lesson learnt from PfR. It is worthy to mention that, the products and best experiences of the PfR has been used a source of evidence in the recent national Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy development as well as regional and local government led watershed management intervention. In collaboration with Addis Ababa University the national Green Economy team, ACORD has developed ecology mainstreamed community based urban agriculture for (Lower Akaki River Basin, Addis Ababa) the most polluted river in the country. ACORD also presented the CMDRR experience in the national green economy consultation workshop held in October, Ethiopia which will be soon published as a successful case study by OECD consulting firm.*

Joint coordination review and learning meeting for NGOs: *The joint coordination, review and learning meeting for NGOs were organized in December at district level. The meeting involved NGOs from GTLI, VSF-Germany, EPARDA, and PCDP. In the meeting each partner shared its experience and challenges encountered while implementing projects in their respective areas. Best practices in the area of range land management, cooperative formation, water development, DRR information, Community animal health intervention, the case of pastoral field school, Human health intervention initiatives etc were some points the partners raised during the meeting.*

Specially the rangeland management approach in pastoral area of Nyangatom experienced by AFD & the pastoral Field school initiative in Dasanech by VS-Germany took the attention of the participants & thus outshined as the best practice to be replicated in other pastoral areas in the zone. The participants discussed on issues of collaboration for positive understanding and action. They agreed to work together to harmonize per diem rates, which is proving to be a challenge for project implementation. They agreed to continue having such meetings quarterly in rotation basis and AFD took the initiative to organize the next one.

Commitment enhancing key stakeholders involvement for better impact and sustainability: *ERCS facilitated the participation of local government partners (woreda administration, Agriculture and rural development, water resources development, and Health, Women, Youth, and children affairs offices) in a series of PfR programme activities such as: inception workshops, DRR/CCA/EMR trainings, experience sharing visits, monitoring and supervision, and annual review and planning meetings. This has enabled the government partners to have clear understanding about DRR/CCA/EMR integration approaches.*

Woreda administration, agriculture and rural development, and water resources development offices are actively engaged in implementation of programme activities such as mobilizing the community, providing technical support, and undertaking monitoring and supervision through their grassroots level structures. This level of cooperation is formalized through a signed MOU between ERCS and the local partners.

RCCC Activities under the three strategic directions

The Climate Centre also supported the Ethiopia PfR program with a Participatory Video training. This training was attended by representatives from all of the Africa based PfR country teams. This training provided participants with basic facilitation skills of Participatory Video with the goal of enhancing documentation and the sharing lessons between PfR communities.

At the conclusion of the PV training the Climate Centre also facilitated a learning exchange between the PV Team delegates and previous climate and DRR work completed by the Uganda Red Cross Society.

The Climate Centre also co-hosted a one-week training for the Ethiopia PfR country team. This training focused on the basics of integrating climate and ecosystems into risk assessments and project planning. This training was held in Yabello, Ethiopia and involved community visits and field practicum's.

On a monthly basis, the Climate Centre provides seasonal forecasting information to the PfR team. During 2013, the Climate Centre redesigned the forecasting website to make the information more accessible and understandable to humanitarian and development practitioners.

3.2 Initiatives related to the learning agenda

1. Integration of CCA an EMR in to DRR tools Facilitation

The PfR Ethiopia team jointly with WI and RCCCC organized the Mutual Learning consultative meeting in Addis Ababa in January 2012.

During the mutual learning, It was agreed that the most important step for assisting the Ethiopia PfR team to bring in climate and ecosystems into its work would be to implement a more detailed capacity building workshop. The following elements were noted for consideration in developing the capacity building course:



Participants of the integration of EMR and CCA in to DRR training held in Yabello, Ethiopia in May 2012.

- *Adapt materials to dry land and highlands (not sole focus on wetlands)*
- *How to pass Climate (Change) and Ecosystems information onto communities*
- *Information on how to dialogue with government on these issues*
- *Early Warning Systems (EWS)*
- *Include a general overview of Climate Change: basics of science, highlight of global issues*
- *Review Community Action Plans and bring in ecosystems and Climate Change elements*

In addition, the following areas were agreed as also areas where the Ethiopia team required some technical support:

- *Policy dialogue strategies with government at all levels, as well as priority areas to focus on.*
- *Guidance notes and sample questionnaires for ecosystem and climate change for OM training and baseline support.*
- *reviewing of plans and programs for climate issues, help to interpret meteorological data, support policy dialogue and internship program.*

The recommendations above were followed by a training on integrating EMR and CCA into DRR approaches that was held on May 2012 in Yabello, Ethiopia. This training addressed the following objectives:

- *To equip each PfR implementing partner with basic understanding of CCA and EMR.*
- *To Equip PfR technical partners with a basic understanding of DRR approaches, building of resilience and how the PfR partners can apply these in the field.*
- *To improve participants' knowledge on the role of wetland ecosystems in CCA and DRR.*
- *To discuss possible early warning/early action mechanisms for the PfR communities.*
- *To identify key concepts that should be communicated to the community level and discuss ways to communicate these ideas.*
- *To discuss the concepts of avoiding environmental degradation and mal-adaptation.*
- *To jointly develop a plan for mainstreaming EMR and CCA into existing assessments and project management cycles that will be used within the PfR.*
- *To jointly develop a workplan for further capacity building/training.*
- *Further build ownership of the programme within the PfR's partners.*

This list of objectives was effectively dealt with during the week-long training in Yabello and included field work in the communities. The training had a total of 17 participants representing WI, ACORD, Cordaid, ERCS, SSD, RCCC, AFD and three government Officials.



Participants celebrating after emerging winners of the quiz game on ecosystem and climate.

Guidance notes were generated to obtain ecosystem and climate information from the communities through community mapping, historical profile and focus group discussions. These tools were then used in the field and generated interesting information on climate and ecosystem issues.

Generally WI has continued providing advice and technical support to partners on integrating ecosystems issues into risk assessments.

2. Reflection on Outcome Mapping Training and Baseline Survey

Under Monitoring and Evaluation thematic joint activities, the country team facilitated the training jointly with IIRR Regional Office for five days to enhance the capacity of partner staff, as they can appropriately plan, monitor, inform and reinforce programmatic actions. The training and field support during the survey was designed in a way that the trained partner's staff be able to conduct the baseline survey accordingly and build the capacity of other stakeholders through cascading the same training.

The participants developed the project Vision, Mission, and Boundary partners for the three strategies areas in detail. The boundary partners' progress markers to be used in monitoring socio-institutional change in line with the project's objectives are drawn in detail. These were included in the baseline tools to establish the current status with the expectation that any changes could be captured during the project's implementation.

To help develop the OM concepts further, the participants were taken to field practicum to observe, collect information and develop a possible intentional design for the project. Using information from key informant interviews and focus group discussions, the participants were able to develop an Outcome mapping write-up for the project.

Project baseline survey was originally planned to be conducted in 2011, however, due to the severe drought that affected the horn of Africa it became inconvenient to get the community as they moved to other areas where they can get pasture and water to save their lives and livelihoods. As a result, all country PFR alliance members conducted the revised baseline survey in their respective operational areas by their own trained staff through data collection tools developed in the training that would be monitored through Outcome Mapping with field support and coaching from IIRR.

3. RCCC Initiatives related to the learning agenda

In 2012, the East Africa Officer at the Climate Centre represented PfR at a variety of international conferences including the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) in Rwanda, the Community Based Adaptation conference in Vietnam, the ICARUS 3 conference in New York, and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC in Qatar. The Climate Centre offers remote support on request and provides seasonal forecasting information to the PfR team on a monthly basis.

In support of the learning agenda, the Climate Centre, with Wetlands International, recruited a researcher to be hosted by Ethiopia Red Cross Society; to aid in the review of community risk assessments as well as a review of the strategic plans and policies of current and potential stakeholders for additional areas of overlap.

At the global level, the Climate Centre organized a research initiative called “Global Learning from Participatory Rural Appraisals” to document lessons learned and best practices from the assessment process of PfR. Documentation from the assessments in Ethiopia was used as part of this research; the report will be released in February 2013.

Households	Question 1	<p>What knowledge and tools do communities need to carry out integrated risk assessments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Knowledge needed to undertake integrated risk assessment by community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of local hazards, vulnerability context and community capacity; • knowledge of climate smart approaches that would enable to consider climatic issues in DRR effort • Knowledge of the negative contribution of local environment to disaster risks if not well managed ➤ Tools needed to undertake integrated risk assessment by community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community friendly PRA tools such as community resource mapping, risk mapping, local risk calendar, community vision mapping, etc.
	Question 2	<p>What are effective/ innovative (technical and ‘social capacity’) measures to reduce disaster risk and to adapt to climate change in a sustainable way?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Innovative measures to reduce disaster risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition to and use of indigenous community knowledge; • Introduction of alternative and adaptable livelihoods based on local resource endowments such as crop irrigation, apiculture • Networking communities with relevant local support system such as metrological institutions, local service providers such as government and private institutions; • Natural resource management to protect degradation • Contingency planning and implementation as a response mechanism to emergency situations
Communities	Question 3	<p>What community structures and mechanisms facilitate households to apply the DRR/CCA/EMR approach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The structures and mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized community as a preparedness mechanism to protect or mitigate local disaster risks • Community resource/information centres that allows flow of information from and to the community • Established/strengthened people-centred Early Warning System accessible by individual HHs

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community self-development/protection initiatives such as livestock insurance system • Identification and application of community owned-best practices • Community-cross visits and learning on DRR/CCA/EMR
Southern Partners	Question 4	<p>How to facilitate application of integrated DRR/CCA/EMR with communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organized community/CBO representatives take the lead in the application of DRR/CCA/EMR effort • NGO/Government process facilitators provide technical support in the application process • PRA tools are used in the identification process of disaster risks • Communities are facilitated to develop DRR /CCA/EMR measures for the identified disaster risks (development measures as well as contingency measures) • Communities are facilitated to develop community action plan • Communities are facilitated to apply DRR/CCA/EMR measures during project implementation • Communities are facilitated to formulate and apply PPMEL • Documentation of learning at community level
	Question 5	<p>What steps are needed to incorporate integrated DRR/CCA/EMR approaches into policy at different levels (local to international)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of DRR/CCA/EMR policy issues at grassroots level • Facilitation of community dialogue on the identified DRR/CCA/EMR policy issues • Gathering up of evidences to substantiate the policy issues • Presentation of evidence-based DRR/CCA/EMR policy issues to government officials at regional level so that the regional level government bodies would support in lobbying the national level government officials • Presentation of DRR/CCA/EMR policy issues to the national level officials and lobbying to accept the approaches • Getting acceptance and incorporation of DRR/CCA/EMR approaches into the policy at national level

3.3 Lesson Learned

- Knowledge and skills development activities on DRR, EWS, and ESMR empowered PfR organizations staff to support the government and community to develop action plans, facilitate community sessions and roll out learning from the training.
- Working with the local government technical experts are empowering the community and there are trends that with continuous good programming this project will be sustainable as the government experts increasingly take lead on CMDRR, EWS and ESMR processes. The involvement of government and the range of national and local NGOs in the meetings, trainings and as a network has encouraged cross learning that is impacting on actors on DRR. The government were open to raise their concerns on initiatives by NGOs that are not sustainable; sometimes giving the communities the relief mentality and leaving the communities in poverty when their projects end.
- This challenge was taken positively by NGOs clarifying to the government agencies that PfR with the three approaches EMR, CCA and DRR is working to address this challenge.
- Some ecosystem problems that came up was the invasion of grazing field by bushes and trees and the loss of high quality species of grass for grazing. The discussions developed into trying to look into the root causes of these changes and a need to link with knowledge and research institutions was recommended.
- CMDRR is motivating the community to lead their development and reduce the hazard impact and being able to predict the hazard in order to take proactive actions.
- A major challenge is the delayed implementation of the program for various reasons explained earlier in this report. It is acknowledged however that the foundations have been laid now to further progress in the implementing of the program.

Part IV – Sustainability, quality, efficiency

4.1 Sustainability

The conventional mechanism followed is to make agreement with the local government, because it is believed that the government is responsible to sustain the results of a project. All PfR implementing organizations signed operational agreement with their respective Regional Governments, and based on the mandate provided for them by the Charities and Societies Agency/CSA, except ERCS, which signed a MOU with local government. The project agreement made with the Regional Government is to deliver the project results as stated in the project document. Therefore, it is assumed that the government plays a role in sustaining the results of the project. In addition, ERCS has also signed an agreement with communities on how results will be maintained during and after the programme. In the same manner, project implementation agreements are made between partners committees based on community action plan but the -beyond-project-sustainability agreement is taken care of by the project exit strategy.

More importantly, the undertaken capacity building activities of relevant government partners, CMDRR organizations and community members, coupled with their involvement in the entire project cycle management, makes them custodian of the interventions now and in the future. The sustainability issue is treated in such a way that government and the selected communities will take up the achievements of the project through project handing over procedures and sustain them.

4.2 Quality

PfR country alliance and implementing partners reached in common consensus to adapt and employ participatory risk review and reflection process (PRRRP) to measure community level of satisfaction with the project achievement. This PRRRP session has been held at district and community level regularly throughout 2013 implementation period. Comparisons of achievements against the baseline data are made. It also uses external evaluation report to gauge the overall achievement and community view with respect to level of satisfaction (community indicators will be developed to trace which typical intervention brought about the level of satisfaction enjoyed by the beneficiaries.

A standard programme monitoring protocol format is available and used to measure progress of activities implementation annually, in addition to, their own monitoring, financial management and reporting, etc format for internal use. Moreover, the country team planned programme review meetings and joint monitoring to be conducted twice annually to check progress and recommend corrective actions where needed. It also uses external/self evaluation report to gauge the overall achievement and community views.

Almost all PfR organizations use the government technical standards and/or its derivatives to ensure quality of programme activities. Such standards include use of multidisciplinary teams for thematic areas such as livelihood, water works, natural resource management, and livestock healthcare to ensure proper implementation.

The country team will work more on sharing the experiences of Cordaid(ACORD and AFD) to in place PRRRP sessions in other implementing project areas as they can employ and program implementation will assessed at community level in participative way through facilitating the sessions regularly as a monitoring and evaluation tool. The government and NGO stakeholders also undertake quarterly monitoring of projects using conventional monitoring tools and procedures such as observation of outputs, holding discussions with different community groups and the like.

Local innovations are stimulated via experience sharing among communities. Documentation and sharing of best practices, empowering local communities to release their potentials, adoption of research based findings based on local contexts, etc.

4.3 Efficiency

The general agreement for all implementing partners is to implement project activities as per the allocated budget with the view to achieve the desired results of the project but efforts will be made to reduce expenditures without compromising the quality of the program.

In all PfR operational areas, there is a common minimum standard where partners can base the cost per beneficiary, which is kept reasonably low.