

ANNUAL REPORT, UGANDA, 2011

I. Basic information:

| | |
|---|--|
| Reporting Period | January-December,2011 |
| Total Budget in Euro for the reporting period | € 974.960 € 172,935 (Care + Uganda Redcross) € 629.090 (Cordaid) |
| Name of person(s) who compiled the report | Moges Bekele, Cordaid Uganda |
| Date of report | Feb 10, 2012. |

II. Executive summary

Year 2011 marks the first year in start of the country PfR program operation, with a country workshop in March 2011. The focus of the workshop was to: review, select and confirm project location and target community, agree on management and reporting structure for PfR partners, budget presentations, country log frame, monitoring and evaluation, and source for technical assistance. In addition, discussion and agreement made on the overall country PfR coordination and responsibility made regarding the three thematic areas, namely Monitoring and Evaluation, linking and learning and Lobby and advocacy.

As per the agreed coordination mechanism the country team took the responsibility for the coordination and program development. In total 6 country coordination meeting were held and discussed on key pfR program issues. In addition, coordination and collaboration continued with the two global support component of the PfR program represented by the Wetlands International and RCCC.

Year 2011 being year one period of the PfR program, mostly preparatory activities related with identification of stakeholders, building relationship , facilitating community level or target group risk assessment process and program design for 2012, were activities mostly implemented. PfR alliance and Cordaid implementing partners facilitated risk assessment in 54 communities during the year and in total 50,100 Peoples were covered by the risk plans or reached with the risk assessment.

Identification and initiating linkages with knowledge, resource centers or institutions, similar networks in the country and participation on lobby and advocacy forum were also activities executed during the period. In some instances direct community level training on new national disaster preparedness and management policy and supporting the structuring of government lower level structure has been materialized. In addition both Care and Uganda Red Cross able to train 450 people in ecosystem based livelihoods approach.

Both alliance and implementing partners experienced sequence of factors that contributed negatively as well as positively contributed for the smooth start of the program. However, the period- year 2011 didn't spot with major or significant events or factors that severely affected the planned program take off both at implementing and alliance partners' level. However, the period has experienced important factors as narrated under the context part of this report.

Year 2011 is program start period for the PfR country program, as result PfR alliance and Cordaid implementing partners engaged in preparatory and program design activities. As result, most of the planned activities under the civil society and lobby advocacy and some activities under direct poverty alleviation not fully accomplished as planned.

III. Context

A. External factors

Year 2011 marks the first year in start of the country PfR program operation. Both alliance and implementing partners experienced sequence of factors that contributed negatively as well as positively contributed for the smooth start of the program. However, the period- year 2011 didn't spot with major or significant events or factors that severely affected the planned program take off both at implementing and alliance partners' level.

Nevertheless, important external and internal factors were observed. Some of the factors directly or indirectly affected some of the planned and important interventions implementation at community level. Other external factors-though emerged in the year period, however, their potential impact on negatively affecting the PfR program start remained low. The following are major external factors observed in the country, which were summarized under political, environmental, conflict, economic and policy factors.

- **Political factors-** national election is main political context factor observed during the first PfR operation year. These election period and processes posed some challenges for partner organization in reaching out to their communities in some instances. Other implications of the political factor, relates with creation of new districts as administrative structure at lower level. Thus, newly created districts as part of the political 'election" promise, found in very low government capacity to function governance role. Thus, low or undeveloped institutional capacity in newly declared districts caused and will remain as constraints for alliance and implementing partners in matters dealing with local government department.
- **Natural hazards prevalence- Extended dry weather condition, heavy rain fall pattern and unusual hazard –lightening prevalence.** During this period, in most of PfR target areas partners agreed that the rainfall pattern shown erratic nature with late on set of rainfall affecting planting season and loss of planted seed. In some instances the dry weather conditions curtailed field activities as communities were preoccupied and focused on how to cope with the effects of the drought. Several communities could not easily be mobilized as the members engaged in various activities to meet their daily needs. In contrary, the latter periods of the year received heavy rainfall amount in most of the PfR target areas. Heavy rains induced flash floods were observed to damage livelihoods and basic community and individual assets. Damage to farm lands, shelters, bridge and access roads were caused by the flooding conditions.

Uganda has been reported by major media institutions among the countries of the east Africa- including Kenya and Ethiopia who were badly hit by dry weather condition in the mid of 2011. However, local Famine early warning information, in contrary warned for lesser impact of the dry weather conditions and more localised drought impacts. As result, PfR partners didn't engage in major life saving humanitarian interventions.

In addition during the period there was lightning strikes across the country and with more events in schools. As a result of this, four lives were lost in Otuke district with several sustaining injuries. In response to this, the district appealed to CARE to intervene in the entire country. Consequently, an

awareness campaign was planned and conducted in all the schools within the district. Although action points were reached per school, many of them require funds from central government (to install lightening conductors in schools, etc). Nevertheless, schools pledged to plant trees, lobby parents to provide pupils with rubber sandals (minimum standard at fairly affordable price). At the height of the lightning strikes in schools, the Ministry of Education pledged to install lightening conductors in schools; this is yet to be fulfilled. Alongside this initiative, the government continues to lobby INGOs to support where possible. Another wave of disaster in the country to date is the nodding disease affecting children aged 15 years and below in Northern Uganda (where the PFR project is located). Although there are death cases, diagnosis of the strange disease is under study by CDC in USA and the Ugandan counterparts. The disease is also seen to be spreading gradually to different parts of the Northern districts some of which are bordering Otuke (PFR project district)

- ***Economic-Inflation related-*** there is trend observed in the country in the devaluation of local currency. In the period under review, the country faced depreciation of the shilling to dollar currency with double digits. The situation started early in the year but has remained skewed upwards to this time. However, the currency exchange rate has shown some positive changes, where the value for the local Shilling shown increase per dollar rate during the end of year.
- ***Policy environment- new government policy and shifts towards DRR stakeholder's coordination mechanism:*** The Uganda government has officially promulgated National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy (DMPP) during this period. The newly issued DMPP policy outlined government direction and structures in dealing with natural hazards induced disaster situation. In addition during this period, the Uganda government has taken position in humanitarian operation context. The government took position in the humanitarian coordination system or approaches, where a shift or move away from humanitarian dominated resource mobilization approach and coordination mechanism towards initiation of disaster risk reduction forum. The government clearly announced the replacement of previous humanitarian coordination forum by national level Disaster risk reduction forum. This change will be positive and could be considered as an opportunity for PfR lobby and advocacy engagement.

B. Internal factors

1. PfR country workshop launched

At the country level, the PfR project started with a country workshop in March 2011. The focus of the workshop were to: review, select and confirm project location and target community, agree on management and reporting structure for PfR partners, budget presentations, country log frame, monitoring and evaluation, and source for technical assistance. In addition, discussion and agreement made on the overall country PfR coordination and responsibility made regarding the three thematic areas- namely Monitoring and Evaluation, linking and learning and Lobby and advocacy.

During the country workshop, PfR alliance members based in the country and outside the country, selected Cordaid implementing partners attended the workshop.

2. PfR Country coordination mechanism established

As agreed in the country workshop, country coordination mechanism which consists of taking the overall leadership and coordination of the PfR program, facilitation of thematic areas representation of the PfR program to wider stakeholders, mechanism for exchange of updates has been established. Thus, Cordaid

took the country overall coordination and two of the alliance members have been assigned to coordinated the thematic areas.

During the period, six country level team meeting has been facilitated. During the country team meeting, program updates, discussion on key programmatic issues, sharing of information from NL PWG and regional coordinator made. In general the country team meeting will be main tool to promote country level team approaches and update on program progress and challenges.

3. PfR alliance members' established local partnership with implementing partners

PfR alliance members during the period finalised selection and partnership agreement with their local partner organizations. Specifically, Cordaid selected four local partner organizations among its long stayed old partner organization and one additional new partner organization. These Cordaid partners include –Socadido, Caritas Moroto, Ecological Christian organization and TPO.

Similarly, the Uganda Red Cross finalised partnership agreement with Red Cross Netherlands. In addition, local level agreement made between Red Cross Uganda and district based Red Cross committee for operation of the PfR project. Wetlands International also finalised agreement with its local representative the RAMCER centre for wetlands in East Africa and Care selected Joy Drilling as its local counterpart for the PfR program implementation.

4. Country level PfR programmatic tools developed-Monitoring protocol, draft baseline survey terms of reference, etc

PfR alliance members and Cordaid implementing partners participated in the monitoring protocol review tasks. Thus, at this stage alliance members and Cordaid implementing partners are aware of their overall PfR program target, three result areas, activity monitoring indicators and operation schedules.

Regular updating and revision of the monitoring protocol will be made as PfR program implementation goes on and any adjustment or additions are happening.

Thus, based on alliance members and Cordaid implementing partners input, the country level monitoring protocol has been finalised and submitted to PfR working group. In addition, a draft baseline survey terms of reference has been developed by Red Cross Uganda team and in process of finalizing contract with potential service provider in the country. Thus, the monitoring protocol and baseline data will assist the PfR program in tracking its progress and assess the impact of PfR project in the country.

5. PfR alliance and implementing partners finalized organizational preparation

PfR alliance members and implementing partners finalised their organizational preparedness to start direct community level implementation of the project. This period, being the initial phase of the project, the following key preparatory activities have been carried out.

- ***Staffing, office and logistic arrangement:*** Most of the alliance members and implementing partners finalised selection and appointment of appropriate staff for the PfR project. Similarly office arrangement at community target area and logistics such as project vehicle purchase, upgrading of communication facilities such as use of improved internet services made by one alliance member-care International.

- **Continued discussion and relationship building with stakeholders:** Regular discussion with target community, district and sub county based government department has been staged by all alliance members and implementing partners. In addition, discussion and consultation with other similar organization has been facilitated. Case in point, Care started to make relationship building with consortium (Four organizations) lead project part of the Global Water Initiative (GWI) and started to jointly facilitate the training on local level Disaster Management Committee (DMC) as per the new government Disaster Preparedness and Management policy.

6. Wetlands International opened regional office for East Africa and close positioning of its representative in Uganda:

During the first half the year, the Wetlands International Programme manager was working remotely from the Regional Office in Senegal, contributing to the PfR set up from a distance. The Senior Technical Officer was present in Nairobi, taking part in PfR activities in the region. That period was crucial to Wetlands International in planning the set up of the office that would be responsible for PfR and other MFS funded work in East Africa, which began work from its new Nairobi base in July. The official registration process took longer than advised, although NGO registration was finally received at the end of the year. This means that from 2012, Wetlands International can now operate in East Africa in an official capacity, which will assist in technical work such as lobby and advocacy, as well as logistical issues. Support continues to be provided to the small Nairobi-based team from the finance department in Dakar, Senegal, which is responsible for financial report and advice.

Due to the limited budget available for support PfR in Uganda, support to the country team from WI directly will continue to be given throughout the programme by the Wetlands International Kenya office. After the first planning meeting in March 2011, the WI programme manager took part in meetings and planning with the Uganda team during the Global conference in September and in Kampala in October. Other correspondence was conducted via email.

A further solution has been agreed upon with the Uganda team in order to provide more regular support; WI's partner RAMCEA (Ramsar Centre for East African Wetlands) has strong links to the Ugandan Wetlands Management Department in the Ministry of Environment and is very well placed to provide advice and support related to issues of Ugandan wetlands management. On behalf of WI, RAMCEA representatives take part in meetings as required and will continue to do so, as well as reviewing reports and providing other ad hoc support as necessary, in 2012.

IV. Results:

A. Community

B.

1. Community target groups selection, PfR program orientation to government and other stakeholders finalized:

Community target groups selection was process where two of the PfR alliance members and four community level direct program implementing partners went through during the year 2011. Selection of community target groups with their geographic and administrative location was based on the criterion set during the PfR launching workshop.

In addition alliance and implementing partners organised series of orientation session to local and district based government representatives, community leaders and other similar organizations. In some instances the orientation session has been done at different levels targeting higher government departments. For instance, Care's orientation session included higher relevant stakeholders such as government officials working at environment, water and Meteorology

Ministry and higher government representatives working at Prime Minister Office under disaster preparedness and emergency management affairs.

2. Facilitation of participatory community disaster risk assessment at target villages:

Two of the alliance partners and four of Cordaid implementing partners facilitated community level disaster risk assessment. Both alliance and implementing partners used their own organization tools and approaches in facilitating the risk assessment process at community level.

The participatory disaster risk analysis or assessment process at communities was part of other community orientation processes at the start of the program. In addition the main aim of the community risk assessment was to assist and empower communities in the identification of their disaster risks and capacitate them to plan and implement disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.

Prior to the disaster risk assessment training of project staff, community representatives and government staff were trained in the community disaster risk assessment methodology, including risk assessment data collection and procedures, etc. In this case Uganda Red Cross trained 80 participants. The new partner of Cordaid also organized training session on community managed disaster risk reduction approach where 12 trained and facilitated the risk assessment and the other three Cordaid partners used their trained staff in the assessment processes.

In most of Cordaid partner's area drought hazard has been identified as major hazard affecting the target groups. Conflict, flood, livestock and human disease are listed hazards according to their impact. The participatory disaster risk assessment process allows community members to share their views or perceptions on the causes, intensity, etc of the hazards and also to suggest community views for viable options to reduce the threat of risk from hazards. Some of the communities' perception shows that local hazards are an act of God and man made. These communities' perceptions about the causes of the hazard have an implication for program design.

Community risk assessment at Care target area identified and prioritized issues according to frequency and intensity- poverty, drought, floods, diseases, famine, lightning strikes, unemployment, cattle raids, and gender based violence among others.

Community testimonies at risk assessment session,

Community members were able to notice that there had been a change in seasons. They said,

“Those days, rain used to come in February and that's when many of us would participate in hunting white Ants, but now rains come sometime in April. We are not certain of when to plough because we do not know when the rainy season will start as it keeps on changing”. ECO Community risk assessment

Similarly, the Uganda Red cross using its VCA tool has facilitated the risk assessment and documented its target area hazards map, historical profiles, community resources vulnerability matrix, seasonal calendar, and community aspiration.

In total PfR Uganda alliance and implementing partners facilitated participatory community risk assessments at 54 villages or communities and the findings of the risk assessment will be used to design risk reduction plans that covers 50,100 people in year 2011.

Community perception about the cause and options for climate change adaptation

- ✚ That when Amin was over thrown, many people in Karamoja region acquired Guns and they started killing themselves hence climate change.
- ✚ That God had brought the climate change and therefore there was nothing to do by the ordinary human beings.
- ✚ That people had forgotten and stopped respecting traditional customs that has greatly annoyed the gods which result into the current climate change.
- ✚ People who cut down trees should be reprimanded because trees are for our survival. Respect of traditional customs that annoys their gods and the growing of more trees to conserve nature.

ECO Uganda risk assessment report, 2011

Following the community level risk assessment PfR alliance members facilitated training on ecosystem based livelihoods approach, where 290 people participated at Care and 160 staff/volunteers trained by Uganda Red Cross. Currently, 231 people started actions to adopt their livelihoods at Care target area.

C. Civil Society

1. Training needs assessment by WI and RCCC for facilitating knowledge, skill and tools development to facilitate Integration of tools by PfR partners:

A one day mutual learning workshop was organized jointly with the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) and Wetlands International (WI) on the theme of 'Understanding needs for integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystems Management and Restoration into PfR partner tools and approaches'. The main aims of the meeting were to build understanding of the interventions of each partner within the programme, the needs in terms of integrating climate and ecosystems approaches into these interventions and to build consensus on a way forward for building capacity on ecosystems and climate issues and building these into DRR approaches.

The meeting was successful in these objectives; for RCCC and WI, partners gave useful descriptions of their project areas, the environment and characteristics, hazards and trends. For the Uganda team partners, introductory sessions were given on climate by RCCC and ecosystems by Wetlands, with the support of RAMCEA, which stimulated dialogue over how to

best integrate these issues into the programming. An action plan was agreed, focusing on a detailed field training to be held in 2012, which is now being planned. Wetlands International usually develops and delivers its programmes through a network of training experts. In late 2011, a working group meeting was held to present the PfR to the East Africa network, including Uganda representatives, as it represents a new sector and new way of working, putting disaster risk at the core, and bringing in the ecosystems approach as a part of this. The trainer's network gave valuable advice on approaches for capacity building and it was agreed that existing training modules need to be reviewed and updated for this sector audience, which will be done in 2012.

Through the support of Wetlands International headquarters, WI's existing materials have been supplemented by appropriate tools developed by other organizations. A valuable framework agreed for use during the risk assessment process is the document 'characteristics of disaster resilient communities' which was developed by John Twigg.

In the above understanding the needs workshop a total of 21 staff drawn from PfR alliance and Cordaid implementing partners, attended.

2. *Forging cooperation with knowledge and resource institutions started:*

In year 2011 PfR alliance members and four of Cordaid implementing partners started the process of developing relationship, sorting out key cooperation and collaboration areas with knowledge institutes, particularly with district based national agricultural research institutions and Makerere University, department of veterinary Medicine.

Discussion and Memorandum of Agreement between Cordaid partners and Serere Animal and Agricultural Research Institute (SAARI) shows that, the research institute will support Cordaid partners target area farmers, thereby they can be exposed to the various early maturing crops that are drought and pest tolerant, farmers can also learn to diversify farming as a business integrating livestock, livestock bi-products and crops, adoption of the appropriate practices relating to planting of crops for improved yields ,preservation of traditional seed and while appreciating their susceptibility to climate change problems, etc

In addition SAARI can engage in further research on the assessing potential livelihood strategies for the communities experiencing climate change conditions. In total the cooperation with research institutions can foster for the adoption of climate proof practices and technologies, which will contribute and strengthen strategies for resilience.

Similarly, the initiated collaboration between ECO Uganda, Cordaid local partner and department of veterinary Medicine at Makerere University will focus on creation of sustainable young veterinary entrepreneurial platform establishment to help in cattle disease identification, treatment, control and supply of necessary inputs. Thus, the personal from veterinary department will lead the training and contribute for the entrepreneurial platform establishment in the area.

Care staff already mapped technical expertise existing in the meteorology centre/Ngeta Agricultural Research Institute in Lira that will enable Care PfR program to engage in more systematic way of collaboration in year 2012. Uganda Red Cross started to initiate linkages with meteorological institutions at district level

Thus, 6 partners started to stage cooperation and collaboration with knowledge and research institutions in year 2011 and linkages will get stronger as the PfR program proceed in year 2012.

3. *Initiated discussion with Non-PfR coalition launched and participation at district level DRR forum establishment:*

In year 2011, PfR program in the country initiated discussion with network organization that has similar vision to the PfR program. These network is Climate Action Network-Uganda, which is country network of Climate Action Network International (CAN-I) who forge collaboration and networking among all the national relevant stakeholders to tackle the climate change issues. The Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) is a national network of over 200 Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels in Uganda.

CAN-Uganda's core function relates with research and policy analyses, lobby and advocacy, capacity building and information sharing, mitigation and adaptation initiatives, coordination and resource, mobilization for the network and its members. Representation and lobby at UNFCCC COP conference is among its sole intervention for CAN-U.

CAN-Uganda and Ecological Christian Organization which is PfR partner organized national stockholder's workshop on Cancun Outcome and Road map to COP17 in June 2011. This Workshop is supported under the auspice of Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN U) funded by the **Ukaid**. It was intended to update members and stakeholders on what transpired during COP16 and to discuss the road map to COP 17 which created a platform to discuss CCA/DRR/EMR integration issues. PfR partners attended this workshop representing their own organization. In addition CAN-U sponsored one of the PfR project managers to attend the COP 17 in Durban and engage in lobby and advocacy side events.

Currently, CAN-Uganda is chaired by director of ECO which is Cordaid local partner organization implementing community level PfR program in the Karamoja region in northern parts of Uganda. PfR country program will use this linkages and established relationship to promote more strategic lobby and advocacy program with CAN-Uganda in year 2012.

In addition, Care has initiated discussion with Global Water Initiative (GWI) which is consortium project which had similarities with the PFR project's thematic approaches like Ecosystem Restoration and Management. GWI partners including Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Action against Hunger (ACF), and Joy Drilling Deliverance Church who are operating at PfR target area. During the period care facilitated meeting with the GWI partners jointly arranged field visits to existing hydrological management units to gain more understanding of the work in progress and to identify critical gaps for intervention.

In addition, during the year 2011 two of Cordaid partners (Socadido & TPO) and Uganda Red Cross were invited to attend the one of regional based Disaster Risk Reduction Forum, which is DRR platform for Teso.

DRR platform for Teso is currently at establishment stage, which is aiming to be viable forum for experience exchange, joint learning and lobby and advocacy. Currently, the Netherlands based donor organization ICCO granted the Teso Forum with small grant that will enable the forum to facilitate the start up process. Cordaid PfR partners will support technically and financially this forum in year 2012 so that the Teso DRR forum will be one of the two networks planned to be supported by the PfR country program.

D. Institutional environment

1. *Initiated linkages with government departments -water, environment and meteorology department.*

PfR country team had initiated relationship and discussion with Wetlands International representative the RAMCER centre for east Africa Wetlands who are also representing the Uganda government water, environment and meteorology department, while attending the one day workshop organized by WI and RCCC.

During this workshop, the government representative has disclosed promising works done at government level regarding the country wetlands resource. Thus, government documented works includes, guideline for wetland rice cultivation, guidelines for sustainable utilization of wetlands resources such as Papyrus, data on the existing wetlands resources in the country which can show the trends on the wetlands degradation, restoration if any, etc.

PfR country team appreciated the potential role where linkages with government department can bring towards PfR and suggested to assess and come up with clear plan to forge linkages with government in 2012.

PfR alliance and Cordaid implementing partners are also started linkages with district based government departments.

2. *Lobby and advocacy interventions included under program design:*

PfR country partners in year 2011 finalised their plan and budget for 2012. In this plan and budget lobby and advocacy interventions are included as part of the three key result areas. One of Cordaid implementing partner, Caritas Uganda program will solely centre on lobby and advocacy issues.

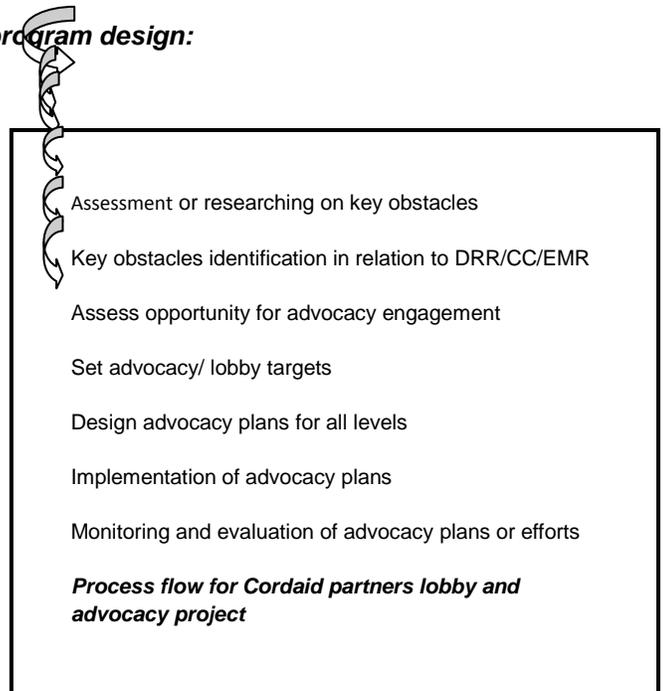
Caritas Uganda lobby and advocacy project envisages to start with assessment of key obstacles in relation to DRR,CC and EMR issues and based on the identified obstacles looks to set feasible and realistic advocacy target or goals.

Cordaid implementing partners will depend up on the assessment or researching findings on key obstacles and based on the assessment result outline their advocacy and lobby engagement both at community, district and also will contribute for the higher level advocacy engagement.

Thus, making linkages between community and district level advocacy engagement on identified key obstacles and the higher country level advocacy agenda, where Care is supposed to coordinate will be key emphasise in year 2012.

3. *Lobby and advocacy small working group established*

Small working group has been established to coordinate and collaborate at grassroots advocacy engagement and with higher national level advocacy engagement. This small group comprises,



Cordaid, Caritas Uganda, ECO Uganda and Care. This small group has made its first meeting in 2011 and expected to continue its coordination meeting in 2012 and Care is leading this group.

4. Participation in the national DRR platform, training on new policy and formation of structure at lower level.

PFR partner specially Care continued participation in the monthly National DRR platform. Through this some national actions are integrated into the PFR work plan. One of this was the role PFR played in facilitating a radio talk show by Care where officials from Office of the Prime Minister during the commemoration of the International/national DRR week with the theme; **“Helping Vulnerable Children and Youth against Disasters”**

In Care target area District Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee (DDPMC) was formed and trained on the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy. The training also included the current variations in rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures as a concern to communities. It called for integration of climate change into DRR plans. The training was done in collaboration with the GWI partners. In addition, DDPMC structures were supported and established at two sub counties.