

Partners for Resilience (PfR) UGANDA Program

Progress report January-December 2012



Introduction

This report from the Partners for Resilience Uganda country team presents the progress within the programme at country level, in year 2012. During the period important intra-organizational developments are observed and mostly conducive developments to larger extents. However, staff turnover, particularly with two technical support organizations RCCA and WI and at implementing partner has been observed.

The functioning of country team has moved in better experience and working culture. Important decisions were taken at the regular country team meeting. During the period, development of clear work plan, establishment of partnership and cooperation with key non-PfR member for joint learning and advocacy and creating the PfR image or enhancing the visibility of PfR work in the country to donors has been made. However, timely progress reporting, sorting out joint lobby and advocacy agenda at country level still remains unresolved. Reporting on the quantitative indicators as set indicators definitions needs to be improved, in some instances partner s reported on the quantitative data seems not adjusted.

During the period, important community level activities has been implemented. Additional communities have been included in community risk assessment and covering risk reduction plans. Ecosystem based livelihoods targets have been significantly achieved, where more than planned or set targets have been implemented.

Supporting the development of community organization, linking with government structure and supporting local networks have been mentioned as key factor to enhance the sustainability of the pFR program. PfR partners significantly involved on lobby and advocacy interventions. In some cases already influenced for the appropriate law or policies at local level/

1 Part I – intra-organisational developments

1.a Organisational developments

During this reporting period a number of organizational developments observed at implementing partners and PfR alliance members level. In most cases the developments were favourable or positively contributing to the operation of the PfR country program. For clarity, the organizational developments narrated under each alliance members and Cordaid implementing partner's level.

Care:

During this reporting period Care did not experience any staff turnover in country but in CARE Netherlands, the finance controller left and his position filled immediately. At organizational level major change in financial management system has been made –move from scala to pamodzi and people soft accounting and financial administration system made. This shift assumed to contribute for improved the organizational financial administration. Organizationally Care has demonstrated its commitment to complement PfR program by engaging one staff member in the design of a concept for 'Gender Equity and Women Empowerment' early in the year in effort to source funds to compliment PFR. In addition, PfR team member continued to represent the Care country office in the two consortium work of Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) and the Emergency Capacity Building (ECB). This consortium work and PFR program share similar aim- building community resilience to disasters and

climate change effects. The observed staff arrangement or allocation will assist to have clear focal staff engagement which is crucial for knowledge development or organizational learning in the organization.

In Care in contrary staff continued to experience low budget percentage allocation for administration as compared to programmatic activities. As result, realignment of budget lines is recommended for the second half of the year and to be approved by the donor, so that the expected activities under the administrative support part of the program could function smoothly. Furthermore, the Global Water Initiative (GWI) project that is complementary to the PFR Project experienced a sudden change from its earlier implementation agreement and strategy. Instead of the usual three years phased funding for the grand of up to 15 years; a new strategy was fronted by the donor to shift away from the initial direct implementation with physical infrastructure (bore holes) to only focus on research and advocacy with a single staff based at field level and four at national level tentatively to be effected by September 2012. This abrupt change might reduce the expected or initially thought complementary role or effects to the PFR program.

The PFR team together with program quality at the country office developed climate change guidelines and launched for pre-test among staff and local partners. This was to advocate for integration of climate change information and use in programming at all levels. The pre-test of the guideline will last six months and evaluation will be done to conclude the document for wide sharing in different platforms. Draft of it was also shared among PFT partners

Cordaid:

The Cordaid team is operational as planned. No developments of importance are influencing the programme, although we have to note that the programme officer at the Hague level was less available in the first quarter of this year. The country leadership is asking more time from the DRR advisor in Kampala than expected.

Partner projects were intended to start their first year of the project implementation phase by late 2011 or early 2012. However, some partners have experienced some delay in the project launch because the first transfers came late. ECO Uganda, Caritas Moroto, Socadido, TPO Uganda and Caritas Uganda have formed their project teams. Caritas Moroto lost their accountant to another organisation, but the position has already been filled. Some have trained their (new) staff members on CMDRR.

Towards the end of 2011, TPO Uganda organised a comprehensive DRR training for its entire senior and middle management as well as social workers and field staff. This training was part of the organisation's commitment to mainstream the DRR approach across all program interventions. It was also meant to enlighten senior management on DRR principles and approaches. As a result of this training, DRR has now been fully integrated within TPO Uganda as a core thematic area for their Uganda Country Program. It has also been integrated into the new TPO Uganda Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016, with clear outcome indicators and targets.

The project coordinator TPO participated in interviewing applicants for the Climate Proof DRR project implemented by Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organisation as a technical person. TPO Uganda and Socadido have strengthened their linkages with the Act Alliance partners (among others LWF, ICCO, TEDDO and Dan Church Aid), through the DRR partnership platform for Teso. Under this platform, the PFR project is able to advance its advocacy and lobby efforts as well as orient the District and Sub County governance structures on DRR/CCA/EMR.

Uganda Red Cross Society:

During the period, the Disaster Management directorate recruited the Assistant Programme Manager-Disaster Risk Reduction to support DRR programmes. This has improved on efficiency and effectiveness in implementation of the planned PFR activities as well. Two taskforce meetings were held which comprised of internal DRR practitioners from the URCS branches and headquarter

directorates. Ideas generated through experience sharing/learning have given further guidance and direction to implementation of activities for improved DRR programming.

The project branches also mobilised extra 150 CBDRR volunteers to boost the existing team (80) CBDRR groups. Five people were picked from each village making the total of seven volunteers per village. This was intended at project planning and implementation that is inclusive of all and that is closest to the village, the smallest unit in the community, the project is therefore now perceived to be closer to the targeted communities. This has further scaled up implementation especially in the construction of the energy saving stoves. With the support of the project, Katakwi branch has set up a community conference/learning centre as part of strengthening its branch capacity and face lift. The construction works are on-going.

Red Cross Climate Center:

During the 2012 reporting period there have not been any significant external factors affecting 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 Uganda.

Wetlands International:

During the period two staff turnover reported including the regional program manager has left the WI and the program has took some time in the process of hand over. Strengthening of the WI Africa office which was officially opened at the end of 2011 and capacity building for WI Africa staff were also part of the major developments. As result the office administration and management systems are in place to effectively discharge the WI Africa office.

As part of the capacity building the WI management organised an international strategic workshop in India for all WI staff working on PfR from all countries. This workshop provided training and sharing of skills and experiences on how to incorporate ecosystem approaches into the DRR processes.

In this reporting period, a number of activities done jointly with the PfR Uganda Partners managed to influence the way we work and how our partners also work. The assessment of documents in correspondence between PfR partners in the second half of the year 2012 indicated that there were more references to the ecosystem as part of the daily work compared to periods before June 2012. This has been a good result indicating a shift from business as usual.

1.b External environment

The African Initiative on Climate Change (CIGI, 2007) has identified Uganda as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climatic change and contains three of the ecosystems identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as most vulnerable to climate change: water-basins, mountain ranges and dry lands. However, the Ugandan government policies and plans towards disasters such as drought have mainly focused on response rather than preparedness or disaster reduction, a measure that does not solve the problem. The Uganda government has equally just completed the drafting the Climate Change Policy in early 2012 and the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy is in place, however, the benefits of its implementation are yet to be realised. This two policy developments are among the key positive external developments that potentially support the PfR impacts in the country.

A long spell of drought, communities disputes, questionable commitment of the local government and the State and its institutions, food insecurity and uncoordinated interventions by non-state actors are some of the external factors making the survival of these communities very difficult. This situation makes the communities dependant on emergency handouts-particularly in the northern part of the

Country where two PfR partners operating an approach which is different from that of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction emphasised by PfR partners in Karamoja. This poses a great challenge.

The first quarter of 2012 was characterised by a period in which most households were engaged in agricultural activities and search for food to meet their individual household demands. This affected the community participation during project implementation, since the majority of the local community members were busy in local markets, urban centres or harvesting from the bushes and forest in order to provide for their household food requirements.

During the period the rains were relatively sufficient and provided both challenges and opportunities for the program. During the implementation of the second quarter phase there was too much rain. The challenges from prolonged rains were encountered in community access, broken bridges, flooded crop fields and spoilt roads. Some of the activities were delayed like for instance the construction of the energy saving stoves and brick moulding, since there was no sun shine for drying.

Insecurity induced by land wrangle in one of the PFR sub county between the native community and some government politicians who were suspected to be campaigning and influencing sections of the community members to allocate part of their communal range land to the government for livestock farming, has created an atmosphere of tension, insecurity and conflicts. This was particularly at Care operational area. Otherwise, the period could be considered as stable and smooth setting for the program operation. Furthermore, the CARE project site faced two peaks of flash floods in May and September-October 2012. This impaired access to some of the communities by vehicle due to impassable murrum road networks. Thus some activities were not implemented on planned schedule.

2 Part II – functioning of the country team

The PfR country team which comprises three implementing partners and two technically supporting organization meets bi-monthly base discuss and decide on relevant issues. The development of country work plan for the period 2012, coordination of technical support or training sessions as one entity and familiarizing the PfR alliance to other similar networks, particularly making linkages and initiating joint learning with Climate Action Network Uganda, familiarizing PfR to Netherlands embassy, potential country based donors, etc are activities accomplished.

Country coordination meeting facilitated: The country coordination meeting has been successfully facilitated on bi-monthly bases, where important discussion and decisions were made. Three regular meeting and one specially meeting that focused on the lobby and advocacy has been facilitated. Some of the decisions relates with –decisions to approve the country work plan, joint activities identification and agreement, coordination of country baseline, coordination of technical support or training sessions on the Integration of CCA and EMR issues in to tools of DRR, are main decisions and coordination made due to the country coordination meeting. Similarly, CORDAID PfR partners (TPO, CARITAS Uganda and SOCADIDO) have had series of meetings to align the CMDRR activities, share, network and harmonise the advocacy and communication strategies. The meetings have enabled the CORDAID partners to strengthen cooperation, learning and sharing, reach collective decisions like the collective development of the PfR advocacy and communication strategy, among others.

Country PfR work plan approved: During the period the country work plan, which comprises activities at each partner's level, joint activities under the three coordination area such as linking and learning, lobby and advocacy and monitoring & Evaluation areas and technical support areas coordinated by RCCC and WI has been identified and included as activities under the country work plan. The drafted and agreed country work plan, will assists in sorting out the expectation and roles to be meet by implementing and technical supporting members and will be used as tool to coordinate and harmonise effective actions. As alliance members experience and working relationship grows, the annual work

plan development culture can lead to practice towards joint strategic plan development for the remaining PfR program period.

Forged cooperation with non-PfR members coalitions: During the period, proactive decisions were taken to forge or create joint partnership with country based, highly recognized network dealing on the issues of climate change and disaster risk reduction. This network is the Climate Action Network of Uganda (CAN-U) which comprises more than 1,200 member organizations including International NGOs, local NGOs, CSOS, Academia, government, etc. With this network PfR represented by Cordaid has entered to partnership to jointly stage research and generate knowledge in two selected thematic areas. These two joint research areas entitled, as **assessing the potential and barriers for agricultural and livestock insurance for small holder farmers and assessing the climate change governance in Uganda**. Both joint researches are currently at field work level, where PfR target areas has been included as key research target areas and partners staff were involved as key informants. This established cooperation with non-PfR members will assist PfR partners to learn from the existing platform and also creates for the opportunity to undertake joint lobby and advocacy with CAN-U in the country. In addition, it has been observed that initiated cooperation will contribute for PfR visibility among the diverse stakeholders in the country.

Facilitated key steps for DRR/CCA/EMR approach internalizing and program alignment observed: During the period, training on the integration of CCA and EMR issues in to the DRR tools has been successfully accomplished. All activities of partners are aligned to the country program log frame and all partners are very conversant with the vision and goal of the project. .

Agreed on joint activities that promote joint learning and observed start of cross learning and exchanges among some partners. The country work plan has included joint M and E activities, where facilitating joint partners field visit has been agreed up on. This joint exchange visit will enhance and facilitate cross fertilization of experiences among the PfR partners. During the period, already observed some field visits to each other's project sites have taken place for example TPO was invited for an exposure learning visit by Ugandan Red Cross to its project site in Apac district. This learning visit was on ecosystems management and restoration activities and showed how Apac district local government is working with its partners to restore and manage the critical ecosystems. Apac local government sources for funds that are given to the partners for activity implementation. Also the communities in Apac embraced tree planting at household level. A majority of households have acres of trees planted. TPO is now using this learning to encourage the targeted communities to sustain the planted trees to maturity and protect the indigenous species.

Another important learning was through the joint workshop of February and September where PfR partners deepened understanding on DRR/CCA/EMR and shared experiences in use of assessment tools. From here they agreed to conduct review of the tools to ensure integration of DRR/CCA/EMR into the assessment tools. Lessons from the learning shall be shared in 2013 workshop. During this time, two exchange visits were made to CARE and URCS sites in Otuke and Apac. Key observations were on communities' approaches to climate change, disasters and how they interrelate with environment.

Familiarized PfR with NL embassy, other donors in the country: During the end of 2011 brief visit by country team drawn from Cordaid and URCS meet with the NL embassy development cooperation head. The meeting was informative and shared about the work of PfR in the country. During the period, Cordaid Program officer based in Hague, has made brief meeting again with NL embassy team and also meet with UNDP small grants program- a program having similar scope to the PfR- and European Commission (EC) food security program officer. During a technical country visit by CARE's program officer based in Hague, courtesy call was paid to the Netherlands Embassy in February 2012.

In both donors staff discussion, PfR program work has been shared to donors. The country team will continue to further maintain the established relationship, will keep an eye if any potential call for program emerges.

Close technical support for local partners (Cordaid) and strong organizational support to the PfR alliance by senior management. Since commencement of the project, Cordaid partners have enjoyed support from all the team members. Cordaid Head office program recently approved business plan that outlines strategies and directions to engage in supporting program centre on **building resilient livelihood** in countries where PfR currently operates. This clearly shows Cordaid head office and country team strong support to the program. PfR program success, innovations and learning are expected to influence the design and subsequent set up of Cordaid Resilient Livelihood Program operation. Similarly, close support and strong management involvement has been demonstrated by Care and URCS level.

PfR members started to be represented in the country key forums: PfR alliance members and Cordaid partners participated in key relevant forums that directly related to work of the PfR program. During the period, 3 of Cordaid partners, Care and URCS staff participated in Uganda climate change policy draft discussion and feedback meetings. Though, alliance and implementing partners represented their own organization, however, feedback and suggestions forwarded during the climate change policy development session to some extent based on the lens or guiding philosophy of PfR programming. In addition, partners attended review meeting of the National Climate Change Advocacy and Communication strategy for Climate Action Network-Uganda which was facilitated and coordinated by Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO), which is Cordaid local implementing partner. This participation at national level ensures that the work of the PfR Alliance and its members is firmly represented at such national level meetings. Care also played key role by keeping partners about the event and by participating on session. Similarly, PFR country representatives (CARE and ECO) participated along civil society organizations to review the first national Climate Change Policy and costed implementation strategy. These are currently in cabinet for discussion and approval by end of March 2013. The PFR partners (CARE, ECO) plan its dissemination after approval.

A baseline survey, led by Uganda Red Cross Society, was undertaken on behalf of Partners for Resilience (PfR) implementing the Community Proof Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CPDRRP) in 6 districts of Katakwi, Apac, Amuria, Otuke, Nakapiripirit and Napak in 36 communities. The baseline survey and situation analysis report generated data and information to guide PfR CPDRRP planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes, and results tracking.

In general during the period promising progress has been observed in the functioning of the country team. The country team has moved in better experience and actions as compared to previous year to have effective coordination and leadership of the program. However, some challenges needs to be improved to enhance the efficiency and effective coordination of the program. Case in point, timely and completed report submission by some alliance members still challenge that needs improvement. Some alliance members reports are not received in agreed deadline, in some cases incomplete reports are submitted where clarifying for the indicators, units, etc are taking much of the country lead. In addition, it has been observed that resource contribution for joint activities, specifically contribution to stage country baseline has took several weeks.

3 Part III – progress on programme implementation

3.1 Activities under the three strategic directions

Activities under strategic direction one: Support for eco system based livelihoods promotion, promoting different types of mitigation measures, increasing skills and knowledge of target groups in dealing with local hazards, making linkages with nearby research or knowledge institutions, etc are some of activities accomplished.

Supporting the development of community based organizations, facilitating the CBOs growth and development, increasing local partner's capacity to effectively lead and manage the program are among the partners capacity building. Initiating research to generate local obstacles that hampers effective adoption of integrated DRR/CCA/EMR approaches at community level, supporting partners to involve in networks or coalitions dealing with DRR/CCA, and linking with Non-PfR coalition for joint learning and advocacy are some of the activities implemented under the lobby and advocacy component.

Please see the detail description as follows as per the three strategic directions.

I. Activities under the strategic direction one:

1. *Community risk assessment and risk reduction plans developed*

The participatory disaster risk analysis or assessment process at communities was part of other community orientation processes at the start of the program. Thus, Cordaid and Care has facilitated this assessment process in year 2011 and URCS has finalised dissemination of the community assessment process at early 2012 period targeting 30 communities.

In total by the end of year 2012, PfR Uganda partners facilitated community risk assessment at 76 communities (villages) level.

2. # of mitigation measures implemented per community

In year 2012 period substantial achievements has been recorded at all of the PfR Uganda implementing partners in implementing disaster mitigation measures at community level. Disaster mitigation measures are any measure that lessens or limits the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters benefiting wider levels of people in the community. The Disaster mitigation measures are identified by the affected community groups during the disaster risk analyses period, which was facilitated during the first year of PfR period. Thus, in year 2012 period, all of the PfR Uganda implementing partners take actions in implementing the identified measures at community level. In generally the disaster mitigation measures implemented during the period, contributes to lessen or limit the potential impact of identified hazard-mainly drought and flood hazards at PfR target areas.

For instances four of Cordaid Uganda implementing partners level- ***Drought tolerant seed promotion, Introduction of water harvesting***- small scale irrigation and ferro cement water harvesting technologies, ***Livelihood promotion or livelihood diversification, Promotion of Village Saving and Loan Association, Peace building, enhancing knowledge and awareness on community early warning-early response and ecosystem protection and management practices*** are main disaster mitigation measures implemented at community level. The livelihood promotion or diversification intervention comprises different types of interventions designed and implemented to increase people income and sustain livelihoods while surviving the local hazards conditions. These livelihood promotion or diversification interventions include-Promotion of Apiary, Poultry keeping, vegetables production, small ruminants support such as goat. Similarly the ecosystem protection or management intervention implemented as disaster mitigation measures include-Tree planting, fruit trees distribution, fuel saving technologies such as energy saving stoves, bio-gas, and protection of ecosystem services-wetlands for fishing, etc)

Cordaid partners implemented 7 DRR measures as outline above benefiting 34 communities.

URCS has supported in the implementation of 4 mitigation measures at two of its branches covering 30 communities. These mitigation measures could be categorised as-ecosystem management interventions (Agroforestry, fruit trees and fuel saving energy cooking stoves) early warning –early response actions, water interventions assessment and flood resistance shelter)

Care has promoted in VSLA, Agricultural input-Action Planning, Natural resources management, early warning system, in total of 4 mitigation measures at 10 community level.

The number of mitigation measures implemented per community by each partners varies by its types, and also the number of people it benefited. In total 8 mitigation measures were implemented at 76 community level during the year.

3. # of Community members adapted ecosystem based livelihood

In most of PfR Uganda partners target areas community level disaster risk assessment results shows that climate changes induced hazards are becoming more common and frequently affecting the communities livelihoods. Particularly imposes severe losses and hardships on the poorest communities as their livelihood is likely to be more sensitive to adverse impacts of climate change. The two main prioritised hazards –drought and flood, continued to affect wider sectors, however, their effect on the

small holder farmers and agro pastoralist people through impacts as low production and productivity of crops and animals, which lead to malnutrition and wide spread famine has been very notable impact.

The majority of development actors including government and other UN organizations used to intervene in food aid related supportes to save the lives of the people. This approach has been so notable in the two PFR partners operating in the Karamoja sub region. Though the national adaptation plans has been developed by the government, however due to limited capacity and instituional arrangements no major adaptation actions that area visible at PFR target areas.

The PFR approach targeting the same target group approached in different way for the existing old problem. The PFR approach assisted the target groups in adaptation actions by basing on thier choices and preference and introducing adaptatble technologies and promoting social mobilization and awaerness that enhance critical awerness among the target groups that leads for collective actions.

In year 2012 period PFR community at target area has been supported in diverse types of interventions that could assist or contribute for the climate change adaptation at the target areas. The different types of ecosystem based livelihoods adaptation measures are similar to the different types of disaster mitigation measures which have been implemented by partners in the target area. PFR Uganda patners during the year significantly supported in the community effort of in adjusting the general the target community members adapted using different following adjustments in the way they sued to sustain livelihoods. Thus, we can categorise in the following adjustments

- ***Enhancing livelihood adaptation through supporting community adjustment efforts in existing agricultural practices, technologies and use of natural resources.***

1. Adjustments in the existing agricultural practices has been mainly practiced by supporting community adjustment efforts from long cycle crops cultivation towards quick or short maturing and drought tolerant locally adaptable crop seeds and planting material. The traditional agricultural practices used to depend on long cycle crops, which use longer duration for maturity and in most cases affected by the drought spills. However, the short maturing crops demonstrated their ability to escape the dry spills and in most instances to withstand the effect of drought and produce ample harvests or yields.

In year 2012 period significant number of target groups benefited from the drought tolerant seed and planting material support by four of Cordaid implementing partner's level. In addition the target groups skills and techniques has been enhanced through training on the improved agricultural production techniques, facilitating on-farm demonstration and learning from similar practices. In most areas the drought tolerant seeds recommended by the national research organization have been used and professional trainers from the national research institutions have been involved in knowledge and skill transfer.

2. Water harvesting technologies promotion for adaptation. Piloting of small scale irrigation schemes and introducing appropriate water harvesting structures such as ferro-cement water harvesting tanks has been done to mitigate the drought impacts and enhance crop and livestock production in the area. Currently, the target groups started to use the water harvested at ferro-cement tanks for irrigating vegetables and other crops during the dry spills. The introduction of water harvesting technologies assisted the adaptation efforts of the target community in the area.
3. Ecosystem protection. Communities' livelihoods adaptation has been supported by the different types of ecosystem protection or management practices. Tree planting, agro-forestry, energy saving stoves, bio gas promotion, restoration of wetlands resources, etc, has been done to contribute for sustainable ecosystem services use in the area. One of the key interventions initiated by CARE is a joint collaboration with IUCN and district Forest officer to dialogue with community and demarcate wet lands within the project area as guided by the Wetlands policy. Sensitization campaigns were launched in preparation for the demarcation during the celebration to mark the World Environment Day. The following one case from Cordaid partner-TPO shows the community using the available ecosystem in promoting DRR and livelihoods.

Box 1- Cordaid partner TPO experince on Integerting ccosystem protection under the community disaster risk reduction inititive .

Magoro Sub-county is one of the **most** vulnerable areas in Katakwi District. The area is prone to flooding, water logging, and prolonged dry spells. Cordaid Implementing partner TPO has facilitated In 2012, an integrated DRR/CCA/ EMR approaches to build the resilience of community. The target community through the facilitation of TPO carried out hazard,vulnerability and capacity assessment and at the end each of the community draw of feasible action plans.

In one of the community, restoration of fragile ecosystems for restoration has been identified as community action plan. A savannah woodlot and wetlands-local ponds were chosen by the communities as some of the critical assets and ecosystems that were under threat due to unsustainable use by the members and the community have been fully aware that the mis managed wetlands are increasingn the threat of flooding, since the wetland harbouring the water gets degraded and the water supposed to be collected at wetlands, started to flood farms , houses and other assets.In addition, the wetlands-ponds used to be main sources of livelihoods, particulallry during the dry period, where community depened up on fishing. Howver, the mismangment of wetlands resulted to have very few fish resources in the ponds.

Thus, as part of the PFR program the community under the direction of the Disaster Risk Reduction committee set up byelaws and action points to restore the identified ecosystems. The community determined that the fish species that existed in the ponds had been depleted and the ponds were under threat of drying up. The community decided to excavate and enlarge the ponds as well as reintroduce the fish species that used to exist in the ponds. The community members went to the nearby swamps in search of the particular species which they got and introduced to the excavated ponds. The community set up byelaws to govern the ponds. The ponds now stand out in the community as an example of protected ecosvstem asset.

- ***Enhancing livelihood adaptation through supporting community adjustment efforts by creating more resilient economic opportunities.***

Community adaptation has been supported in adjustments in the options of securing additional house hold income through supporting alternative livelihoods or Livelihood diversification activities at different target areas. Livelihoods diversification such as -Vegetable production, apiary (improved bee keeping) promotion, support for Small ruminants and poultry keeping has been supported and significant number of target groups have benefited from this economic activities.

In addition, both Care and Cordaid partners introduced Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA), where group members meet regularly to save and take loans to meet their needs. The livelihoods diversification has been supported by the VSLA practices in most of the community, which will assist for sustainability of the livelihoods adaptation through diversification.

In total 10,879 community members have adapted their eco system based livelihoods in year 2012.

Table 1- Community mermbers trained in ecosystem based livelihood, reached with DRR/CCA/EMR in year 2012

Partner Name	# of community members trained in ecosystem based livelihoods	# community reached with DRR/CCA/EMR
Cordaid partners	1229	15,286
Care	140	3516
URCS	150	13,491
Total	1519	32,293

II. Activities under strategic direction II

2.1 # communities where partner NGOs/CBOs have facilitated access to knowledge on disaster trends, climate projections, ecosystem data

In most of rural villages communities used to depend on the traditional way of forecasting the weather and climate conditions. Selected community elders using their traditional knowledge and wisdom anticipate the possible scenario of the climate condition in the area. This traditionally anticipated or forecasted climate early warning system started to lose its credibility as the pattern of climate condition started to be unanticipated. The other sources of climate early warning system are government owned national meteorology department, who analyses and disseminates climate early warning information to district administrative offices on regular bases. However, the government disseminated climate early warning information in most case ends up at the office of the district level, where the early warning bulletins are posted on the notice board.

All of the PfR Uganda partners during the period received the climate forecast message sent by the RCCC. In addition in the northern part of the country, where two of PfR partners are operating, regular drought early warning information has been disseminated through an international NGO. Thus, two of Cordaid partners used the existing opportunity and linked the PfR community with the available drought early warning system.

During the period Care has recorded an outstanding progress in facilitating access to climate information to the PfR community groups in their respective area. Previously, the Care PfR target area receives climate forecasts information from the National Meteorology Department, where climate early warning information are disseminated through sending copies of the weather forecast bulletin to the district administrator Officer (CAO) without interpretation of the technical terms of 'above normal rains', 'below normal', etc. The district's administrative officer because of shortages of fund for dissemination towards the end users they place climate the information on notice boards. This is never received and understood by readers as education levels are low and technical terms are not understood by the large communities. In short the climate early warning information dissemination and communication towards community has been inappropriate, as result there was no effective preparedness measures based on climate early warning information at the target community level.

Thus, Care understanding the climate early warning system failure, CARE facilitated the meteorology officer based in Ngeta Zonal Agricultural and Research Development Institute to disseminate climate early warning information using appropriate media such as Radio talk shows, community dialogues or meetings, notice boards and handouts -for schools). For the first time in the history of the district, community experienced direct interface with the meteorologist to answer questions and receive feedback and agree of actions to carry forward. The early warning and early action information from meteorology was collectively interpreted to community by the respective district department heads who worked in collaboration with the meteorologist. They helped to interpret and illustrate the implications of the weather forecast information to the different sectors like agriculture, road, health and sanitation, education among others (e.g. prolonged rains cause roads and gardens to flood, etc). This initiative also brought the knowledge institution closer to the district to share information in timely and most appropriate way. The awareness created under PFR and the close interaction with meteorologist, the community came to appreciate, demand and applied weather forecast information in their work. One lady remarked as follows:

“...weather information needs to be disseminated regularly and interpreted to us in local language so that we plan in advance. We tend to rely of traditional systems of weather forecast by elders, but this does not always reflect the reality on ground. Like now there is still rain even when, the Northern part of the country starts dry season from November to March or April- We now anticipate delayed drought and delayed rain season which will affect crop farming in first season...”

URCS has trained its Community based disaster risk reduction committee in early warning-early response and facilitated the linkages between community groups and district based meteorology department. In addition, communication tools such as community Radio and phone apparatus has

been supported to enhance early warning communication. Thus, climate early warning message sent from the district meteorology department will be further disseminate to the target community groups through trained CBDRR members.

In total by the end of year 2012 a total of 76 community groups created access to weather climate information by the PfR partners.

2.2 # network/umbrella organisations, developed and active

PfR partners, as members of civil society in their respective target area operate in a socio-economic, socio-political and socio-cultural context. They participate in networks of civil society organisations, taking into account this context. In the PfR the engagement in a structured dialogue with peers and with the government on DRR, CCA and EMR is regarded as a reflection of this. During the period, PfR partner organisations are engaged in networks-where Two of Cordaid partners TPO and Socadidio and URCS has joined the DRR network which is already established at Teso sub region. Three of the PfR partners has taken the lead in disseminating knowledge, experinces regarding DRR/CCA/EMR. Among the peers, the PfR partners has been aknowledged as experinced and resourceful mewmbers of the network. In addition, to thier knowledge dissemination, the pfR partners assisted the existing DRR4T forum financially, as result the DRR4T orum will sustain its opertions in the area.

The other developements during the year, has been the formation of new Network in the Upper part of the opertional area, where ECO cordaid partners took the lead in mobilizing similar actors and respective government departments.

In year 2012 the planned two netwroks support has been fully meet, the Teso DRR Platform and Network on CSOs on DRR/CC are two networks dewveloped and suppoetrd..

2.3 % partner NGOs/CBOs engage in structured dialogue with peers and government on DRR/CCA/EMR

1. Monthly and quarterly regular engagement with district and higher government departments

PfR Uganda partners almost all of the 6 implementing partners engaged in structural dialogue with peers and government departments on DRR/CCA/EMR issues. The available forums for the structural dialogue various with each partner's context and also the types of agenda also differ depending up on the time and type of stakeholder.

For instance Cordaid partners engaged with district and sub county governmentr departments on monthly bases, while attending and discussing the coordination meeting. Cordaid partner Socadido attended 9 out of the planned 12 collaborative meetings at Sub County, district and national level with Amuria district local government, civil society organizations in the district and with PfR members to share work plans, reports as well as lobby and advocate for inclusion of DRR/CCA/EMR into the sub county and district development plans. These meetings were also used as opportunity to harmonise operations in order to avoid duplication of services.

Similarly, Care and URCS engaged in dialoque and discusion with government at higher level- at national DRR platform on quarterly bases where DRR issues are constantly been discussed and debated up on, etc.

2. Participate in disaster day celebrations, dialogue with peers

PfR Uganda partners all of them participated in the International Disaster Risk Reduction day under the them "**womern and girls- the invisible force for resilience**" which was commemorated in Mbale District (Eastern Uganda). The participation by PfR partners take part on tree planting, cleaning campign , radio talk shows, disseminating the recently facilitated assessment and anlyses report on the integeation of DRR/CCA/EMR issues. The DRR days are part of the events to commemorate the

disaster week. Key issues discussed include: hazard mitigation, prevention and preparedness relating to floods and droughts as common hazards.

Cordaid partners -TPO in partnership with other CSOs i.e. Katakwi District Development Actors network , Teso Initiative for Peace, Uganda Debt Network, Teso Anti corruption Coalition and Community Intergrated Development Initiative, Actionaid that operate in Katakwi district organized a one day annual dialogue meeting with the aim of building a citizen-led advocacy ecosystem for greater transparency, accountability and quality service delivery in Katakwi. It was organised with the aim of developing an eco-system of civil society and local government actors who are able to link, learn and work together in their bid to hold their respective leadership more accountable. This was expected to increase ownership of community projects for increased productivity and responsiveness among local leaders in partnership with community members. At the end of the dialogue, the local government pledged commitment to ensure that quality services are offered in the district and continuous partnership with the CSOs for the development of the district.

Care with its Global Water Initiative and IUCN commemorated two important global events. The first was the World Environment Day and second was the DRR week. These attracted attention hundreds of community participants, district, schools, and other CSOs. Here CARE together with the environmental police, district local government officials, schools, community, IUCN, Meteorology officer from Ngeta Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute planned and coordinated the first World Environment Day celebrations in Otuke with the theme **“Green Economy: Our Actions Count”**. The annual event that falls in June saw collaboration among district, community, politicians, school and NGOs. Among activities conducted during the week long celebration were radio messages, radio talk show, tree planting by the district head quarter and establishment of sheer nut woodlot, community dialogues/sensitization on importance of the natural and human environment. Awareness focussed on importance of trees, wetlands and all natural resources and the need to manage and use them sustainably. Associated dangers from their exploitation and exhaustion were also highlighted. Man was identified as the basic enemy of environment and needs to change behaviour towards nature. The week long activities were crowned with a launch of a demonstration woodlot in Otuke Secondary School where natural sheer nut trees are protected by the school. This is part of the effects of the campaign on **“Green Economy: Our Actions Count”**. *The picture below shows collaborative effort to demonstrate green environment between district local governemnt, CARE, IUCN and the community (school) during ‘World Environment Day’ in Otuke.* Together, they launched and fenced young sheer nuts growing in about 10 acres of school land-Otuke town council.

3.Support community organization dialogue, debate with district government

PfR partners facilitated community dialogues as planned for communities’ leadership with the local government leadership represented by District Community Development Officer, District Natural Resources Officer, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, District Water Officer and other Sub County Officials who were selected based on critical issues identified by the community that needed their attention. These meetings were a platform where community members forwarded issues affected them for the attention of the district leadership. Through these meetings the target communities were sensitized on their roles in ecosystems management and restoration and climate change adaptation.

Partners using the community organization dialogue and debate with district, sub county chiefs started to introduce appropriate policy, law that contributes for the ecosystem management. Case in point Care, URCS and Cordaid partners advocacy for locally appropriate bylaws, ordinances, etc.

2.4 # (Partner) NGO/CBO staff trained on DRR/CCA/EMR

During the year two nationally coordinated PfR partners training has been organized. These training included full modules of integrating ecosystem and climate change adaptation in to DRR tools and fully fledged CMDRR courses. Staffs, government departments and district based administrative officers attended two sessions of training. The first training which was organised and facilitated by the Wetlands and Red Cross climate centre, with them of integrating CCA/ EMR into DRR approaches for PfR partners in Uganda, has participated 27 participants.

The purpose of was to enhance the alliance between Uganda Red Cross, CARE, Cordaid, Wetlands International (WI) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre while also strengthening their technical capacity to integrate EMR and CCA measures into project planning and implementation. The training helped the implementing partners to incorporate EMR and CCA thinking into project planning and implementation. This training covered an introduction to climate, climate change; ecosystems and the services they provide; Early Warning/ Early Action mechanisms; how to avoid mal-adaptation and ecosystem degradation; how to communicate key concepts to the communities we work in; and how to incorporate ecosystems and climate in community action planning.

The second training which was organized by the NLRC/URCS where a total of 22 (18 males, 04 females) PFR country team members from – CARE, Cordaid and URCS were equipped with Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction skills, knowledge and attitude on the concepts to guide DRR programming

In addition, each of the implementing partners has organized and facilitated DRR/CCA/EMR trainings at their respective target areas participating staff, government and community members.

2.5 # (Partner) NGO/CBO have established cooperation with knowledge & resource organizations (e.g meteorological institutes, universities, etc)

PfR Uganda partners mainly targeted communities where limited government institutions are operating, limited services available to improve the lives and livelihoods. As result improved agricultural technologies, improved skills and knowledge transfer has been among the major bottlenecks.

PfR partners during the period played significant role in creating linkages with knowledge & resources organization to support community effort for creating resilient community. In total 6 of implementing partners established cooperation with knowledge and research institutions-such as university, national agricultural research institutions and meteorology departments.

Due to the established linkages, access to improved agricultural in pout, access to improved production skills and experiences, access to reliable climate early warning system has been gained at all of the PfR target areas.

2.6 # of times DRR/CCA/EMR related topics on agenda of platforms/ networks

The frequency or times where DRR/CCA/EMR related topics on agenda of platforms or networks vary with each partner's level. Some of the partners continued to discuss and share their DRR/CCA/EMR plans at district level coordination platform on monthly bases. In the other cases, the DRR4T-DRR for Teso platform where three of the PfR partners are involved the discussion and engagement with peers and government departments has been on the quarterly bases. Similarly, the URCS and Care has been engaging on with the national level DRR platform, which has been chaired by the Office of Prime Minister (OPM) on quarterly bases.

2.7 # Organisations (including non-PfR) involved in DRR/CCA/EMR coalitions

PfR Uganda partners had an opportunity to involve in the coalition and alliances outside the PfR in the effort of promoting the DRR/CCA/EMR issues. These non-PfR coalitions are operating at different scale and time. But the most noticed and regularly engaged non-PfR coalitions includes, the following

Teso DRR Platform- This is regionally based platform where two Cordaid partners and URCS have been active members in the plat form. ..

Cordaid partners-TPO involved in the non-PfR coalition at district level - i.e. Katakwi District Development Actors network, Teso Initiative for Peace, Uganda Debt Network, Teso Anti corruption Coalition and Community Intergrated Development Initiative, in process of taking the lobby and advocacy efforts.

At national level, URCS and Care continued to collaborate with non-PfR coalition, specifically the government coordinated DRR platform and Climate Action Network (CAN-U) are main platforms at higher or national level. ACCRA is another network dealing with climate change issues, where Care has been in constant involvement.

III. Strategic direction three

3.1 # 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)

At the target community level, implementing partners and higher government department's level there is growing understanding on the issues of climate change causes, consequences and needed climate change adaptation, mitigation measures. The government and other actors basing on the available knowledge and wisdom directed their plans and policies to positively impact the climate change/disaster risks issues in the country. However, at specific partner's level, case of PfR program implementing partners there is limitation of evidences, particularly there was no collected comprehensive assessment that furnishes credible information regarding the obstacles and opportunity for integrating DRR/CCA/EMR issues at community, district and higher level that could facilitate the lobby and advocacy efforts of partners. PfR Uganda partners during the period embarked on different engagement process that challenges the identified national and local obstacles to DRR/CCA/EMR activities. This process includes -Building the evidence bases as process for lobby and advocacy engagement, Lobbying for the appropriate law, policy, ordinances, etc at community level, fostering discussion and dialogues among the divided sectors or institution.

1. Assessing and analyzing key obstacles/opportunities for effective DRR/CCA/EMR integration into local and National development policies and plans at PfR partners area.

Thus, during the period, as part of knowledge base development to assist the lobby and advocacy engagement of partners, particularly Cordaid implementing partners, an assessment and analyses of key obstacles and opportunities for effective DRR/CCA/EMR issues has been staged. This assessment and analyses targeted districts of Amuria, Katakwi, Napak and Nakapiripite, where four Cordaid implementing partners operate. The assessment used qualitative approach to collect and analyze data for the assessment which included review of relevant literature, data extraction, in-depth participatory interviews and focus group discussions, field excursions and online questionnaire administration and facilitated by selected competent external consultant with Cordaid partner-Caritas Uganda support and coordination.

Box 2-Key obstacles identified for integrating DRR/CCA/EMR at Teso-Karamoja Cordaid partners area.

Budget/resource allocation/Financial: There is inadequate or lack of targeted resources and responses to local reality/priority, Low or no integration of CCA/DRR/EMR in planning and implementation and low community participation in planning and budgeting processes.

Institutional: District and Lower Local Government DRR roles are not fully executed even though committees and plans exist. Other sectors disregard CCA/DRR/EMR mainstreaming requirements with impunity even when their resources and facilities can support it. There are also contradictions in the message to constituents which is often distorted by politicians to serve their political interests. For CCA and EMR there is not inter-district coordination and collaboration both among Local Governments and CSOs and the importance of application of ecosystem approaches is downplayed.

Capacity (Technical and Soft skills): Proven technical solutions for appropriate response are absent or require modification to suit unique circumstances in the region or are not affordable. Unproductive relations between Local Government leadership and CSO technical innovators obstruct possibility of institutionalizing and up-scaling new innovations and best practices. Poor oversight and limited capacity creates fertile ground for Mal adaptation. Advocacy skills by both CSOs, community groups and LG technical staff are very low and local community cadres to facilitate micro-advocacy citizen action are missing. Existing citizen action initiatives are blind or latent to necessity for DRR/CCA/EMR integration and there is limited lesson learning on community empowerment approaches.

Behavioural: Negative community behavior e.g. indiscriminate cutting of trees and cultivation in wetlands is escalating as are unregulated extractive activities by commercial dealers in natural wealth like minerals and stone. The application of knowledge among constituents, civil society remains low. Drunkenness remain frontline community activity that has to be dealt with seriously to secure productivity of local communities.

Policy and Legislation: Lack of CC policy, strategy and mainstreaming guidelines provides a scapegoat for elusive sector stakeholders to avoid application of integration requirements. Implementation of existing policies, ordinances and bye laws for other sectors is ineffective and marred by violations and/or inequitable application. The requirement for participatory policy development has not been reasonably applied in the climate change policy formulation process. inevitable productive dialogue with Private Sector and their adherence to regulations and participation in Corporate Social Responsibility to promote environmental sustainability is far from being realized.

2. PfR partners engaging on localization of policies formulated at higher level

PfR target districts are among the least developed and is prone to natural and man-made disasters. In previous years the vegetation cover was encouraging. With the improved peace in the region, communities have resorted to tree cutting, as a coping mechanism. There is an alarming rate of cutting trees for sale, wood fuel, brick burning, and charcoal burning as an alternative source of livelihood. This has caused high environmental degradation and soil degradation.

Generally the national laws and policies are in place in regards to environmental activities like; the National Environment Act (NEA), the National Forestry and Tree planting Act (2003), the Land Act (1998), the water Act cap 152, the Uganda Wildlife Act. However, these laws are formulated in parliament and they are very difficult to interpret to the community context so there is need to formulate ordinances (a law made or passed by the district council) which will be simple to local district and people since it will be directly formulated by district council and latter enforcement will be easy.

The Uganda Local Government Act, 2000, has clearly outlined the level of power and authority available at local level officials -district, county and sub county level chiefs, in policy making and policy enforcement. The local councilors are granted to make **rule**, sub county chiefs are granted to make **by-laws** and district councilors are allowed to formulate and approve **ordinances**. Thus, in year 2012 period, PfR Uganda partners used the available opportunity granted by the local government act in localizing the polciies and laws passed by the higher parliamnt in order to fit the local context and appropriately to be enforces by the community themselves.

Box 3-Care In Uganda supports local appropriate policy formulation to halt ecosystem degradation

Tree cutting, charcoal burning, land degradation are common in Otuke district, where Care PfR operates. A consultative meeting was conducted with the district and community representatives to forge a way forward for management and restoration of ecosystems. This was also accompanied by the increasing degradation indicated in the needs assessment of 2011 and the increasing degradation of wetlands and forest cover due to adaptation to drought and quick source of alternative income. During this meeting, members determined to develop bi-laws at sub counties and an ordinance at the district level. Care supported the community, sub county and district government in the process of drafting the bi-laws. Consecutive meeting has been held in taking the views of community and drafting the bi-laws. Also community members have been actively participated in the condition of enforcement of the approved bi-law. Now the community once the bi-law is approved have hope reduce destruction of forests. As part of the reinforcement the district lobbied central government to deploy an environmental police officer. This was done and the whole team of district, sub county, NGOs and community are expected to adhere to the bi- laws.

Meanwhile for the district ordinance, the process was started by a small working team under the forest officer and the district disaster preparedness and management committee members. So far a draft was shared and reviewed by stakeholders. Awareness on the document was also created in the community for information and source their views. The community members involved in the awareness and review were the youth, charcoal burners, wetland encroachers, farmers, cultural leaders, politicians, children, religious leaders and general community. Each of the six sub counties members are fully consulted and participated. The next stage is for the ordinance to be discussed in council meeting and passed for state Attorney's approval. Thereafter, it will be forwarded to the central government's input and approval. CARE's PFR and GWI projects facilitated the entire processes described here and district is expected to meet the costs of the council meeting to print the final document for launch and dissemination in 2013. The district will lead all the implementation processes in the ordinance and supported by community. It is hoped that once all the above is completed, Otuke's forests, wetlands will be better managed and restored.

PfR Uganda partners engagement on the obstacles has contributed for success. Localised and appropriate local level bi-laws that protect the natural resources base of the community are already in place. In this case Cordaid partners TPO and Socadido facilitated the drafting of bi-law at sub county level to protect the ecosystem (natural resources). In addition URCS advocated for formulation of a bi-law on tree cutting in Apac district, the bi-law is still in draft form pending approval and by the district local government council.

Lobbying and advocating for human resources resulted to have additional human resources at one of the district level at Care. The annual target set 3-Policy, process and institutions seems to be achieved fully where bi-laws and process where different sectors are taking place in meeting, dialogue and also influence on the institution by lobbying for additional human resources at district level.

3.3 # Governments/ institutions reached with advocacy activities by Civil Society and their networks and platforms

District based 7 government departments and at higher level the office of prime minster and national level Meteorology departments are main government institutions reached by the partners in yer 2012.

Similarly, the district based 7 government departments also involved in regular meeting, discussion and exchange visits.

3.2 Initiatives related to the learning agenda

During the period the country partners as agreed in the Global PfR work conference has given priority for learning on the agenda related with Integration of DRR,CCA and EMR tools (approaches). Though the formal learning workshop or event in this learning agenda has been planned to be materialised on the second half of the year-week of September 3-7, 2012, important or key steps during this period has been accomplished.

- **First step taken to materialize learning agenda one (on tools integration):** *WI in close collaboration with RCCC and the PfR Uganda team worked together to plan, organise and executed a training workshop in Lira, Uganda on how to integrate EMR and CCA into DRR approaches. This training brought together all the PfR teams and their implementing partners from the five districts. The training attracted 27 participants representing 11 NGOs, Government Agencies and Community leaders. Ministry of Water and Environment and Meteorological Department are among the government bodies that participated. The training covered understanding:-Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), EMR (Ecosystem Management and Restoration); Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approaches and how the PfR partners could apply these in the field; The role of ecosystems in CCA and DRR; Early warning/early action mechanisms for the PfR communities; and how to avoiding environmental degradation.*

During the training, the partners shared what they are doing in the different regions and a lot of cross learning happened. The following case study has captured the learning from the field visit during the session.

Box 4-Field learning visit to Apac, Akokoro parish (Toro village) by PfR country team:

A one day learning and sharing visit aimed at increased understanding of the linkage between climate change adaptation, ecosystems management and restoration and disaster risk reduction was organized for the 27 participants who attended the training in Lira. These included participants from the PfR country team (CARE International, Cordaid local partners, Wetlands International, URCS, Ministry of water and Environment and the Red Cross Climate Center). The PfR team noticed that the parish of Akokoro had a sparse population settlement pattern, scattered trees and mainly dry farmland that appears to be extremely dry during the dry spell and wet during the wet season. The elders clarified that the wetlands use to have abundant wild animals and fish. Nowadays water levels are down. Lake Kyoga no longer floods backwards to spill into their areas. They have frequent bush fires. Many plant species have disappeared. The amount of fish harvested in the water bodies has declined. The edges of wetlands had trees and other vegetation that they harvested as food, medicines (herbs) and for making furniture, mats etc. Through the visit it was revealed that the community members keep bees in hives made from tree trunks, lay bricks, do bush burning in order to hunt for edible rats and charcoal burning and all these activities are degrading the eco-system. The visit generally contributed to increased understanding of the linkage between the three intervention strategies.

- **Linkages and partnership established with CAN-U to materialize learning agenda two:** Cordaid representing PfR program has established partnership with Climate Action Network-Uganda and Oxfam GB to jointly support research and learning that relate with learning agenda two. Specifically, the joint learning focuses on to assesses the potential and barriers for agricultural and livestock insurance for small holder farmers and assessing the climate change governance in Uganda. Both studies expected to generate key learning that can feed or contribute for PfR program work.

In addition, most partners established linkages with knowledge centres, mostly locally established research centres and accessed technologies such as drought tolerant seed and advise on improved agricultural practices. Thus, during this period, the activities are at testing stage and more formal learning will be documented and disseminated after this field testing stage.

In addition, there is some learning support activities have been implemented during this period. This includes participatory video training and exchange visits.

- **Support for learning documentation:** Participatory video training was conducted by RC Climate Centre and other PfR partners participated: A total of 13 participants from the PfR implementing countries in Africa received the community participatory video training. The training contained two phases, classroom lectures and field work. 13 participants attended lectures and the attendance was 11 male, 2 female. Field work included 16 CBDRR members, 13 delegation members from different countries inclusive the Branch Managers and the DRR focal person from Katakwi, 3 branch volunteers making the total 25 male, 7 female (32people). Participants received skills in both capturing and mentoring community groups in participatory video making, which will be helpful to document project learning by community..
- **URCS exchange visit on natural resource management to Apac:** The team consisted of board members from the two implementing branches, 2 district environment officers, 2 natural resource officers, 2 LC III chairpersons, 2 ACDO of Ongongoja sub county and Akokoro sub county, the two branch managers and the 2 focal persons for CBDRR Katakwi and Apac branch. They shared challenges being faced during the project implementations in the two districts and how to overcome these challenges. The team had a one day information sharing and a one day field visit to Akokoro parish with community members and as such there was better understanding on the existing environmental conservation practices while bringing into consideration the ecosystem based livelihood perspectives. Furthermore, the two high level delegations compared notes on existing bye-laws or ordinances in relation to ecosystem management and restoration together with the role of all actors common in the districts in Uganda. This activity was a new and creative way to conduct advocacy on ecosystems restoration, for instance when the district participants resolved to push for a periodical ban on charcoal burning in the districts as a way to save the vegetation cover. Thus, this type of cross exchange visit, will enhance learning.
- **First country learning workshop organized:** The first learning agenda workshop has been facilitated in year 2012. The main focus of the workshop has been to discuss on community risk assessment approaches, tools used by each of alliance members , generate learning from community risk assessment approaches, tools, etc and create understanding how the learning s from approaches will inform better PfR programming , further refresh and enhance participants' concept, knowledge on the CCA, EMR and DRR,create common understanding on the PfR learning agendas , jointly develop a work plan for further consolidate learning -on learning agenda at country and partners level.

The first country learning meeting/workshop was attended by 18 participants and had a good representation of all the national and implementing partners in Uganda. Partners shared in the meeting on their activities so far emphasising on their experiences and what they have learnt when doing their Participatory Disaster Risk Reduction Assessments (PDRAs) as well as how they have adapted their tools to accommodate aspects of EMR and CCA into DRR. The partners highlighted

that they experienced a wide range of challenges when carrying-out the assessments some of which include:-

1. The assessment process taking too long (number of days) to maintain participation and focus from the community.
2. Difficulty in language –i.e translating resilience and DRR terminology into local language.
3. Keeping the participants for the entire period of the training and assessment process.
4. General fatigue mainly on the side of the communities

Wetlands International made presentations on ecosystem management and restoration and lead discussions with the participants on how to integrate elements of the ecosystem into the PDRA processes. The Global Advisor for Cordaid, facilitated the process by articulating the main purpose of carrying out the assessment. He highlighted the fact that partner/facilitators push for collection of information separately in packages to be integrated later. On this point Rusty emphasized the fact that communities always contribute information that is already integrated and partners need to just know how to capture this data. He also indicated that the tools are with the organisations and need to be delivered to the communities. The communities need to know how to use them to own them.

All of the country partners attended the first learning workshop and at the end of the workshop, each of the partners agreed to revise their tools and make more comprehensive in taking the CCA and EMR issues. However, the consensus of each partners needs to be followed up to find out the extent how the learning has influenced the existing tools or practices. Since most of the available risk assessment tools are developed at each organization higher level and it seems that field based implementing partners will need some support to revise and apply their own tools

3. Southern partners

The PfR country partners, Cordaid implementing and alliance partners during the period have facilitated their organizational capacity development that enhances their organizational capacity to deliver the pfR and other programs.

Capability to act and control: In this case the PfR projects work plan and detailed activities has been shared by the PfR partners to the local government departments and target beneficiaries. The monthly program coordination meeting at various partners' level has been found as tool to exchange the planned PfR activities and work plan. Most of the PfR partners planning, monitoring and Evaluation system exists and the system always under revision to allow the developments on the programming.

Most PfR partners are guided by the long term strategy which assists them in achieving the coherence in the programming and operation.

4 Part IV – Sustainability, quality, efficiency

4.1 Sustainability

The prospects of sustaining the results, as well as the programme activities, beyond the programme's timeframe have been raised through:

- **Capacity building at community level:**
 - Training of trainers/local resource persons from within the target communities. This will help form a critical mass of knowledgeable and skilled persons to provide continuous support to the rest of the community members. So far, the trained resource persons are championing the implementation of risk reduction measures.
 - Formation and capacity building for the DRR committees that have been freely and democratically elected and mandated by the communities themselves to provide leadership. And training of the target communities on lobby and advocacy will also empower the communities to continue to reach out to other stakeholders and duty bearers to respond to their needs even after the project timeframe.
 - The group work approach will enhance sustainability and learning by beneficiaries as the tangible and beneficial nature of the impacts derived from project activities will encourage other community active members in the area to replicate some of these interventions in the long run.

- **Building strong community organizations for sustainability:**
 - Most partners approach supports building strong community organization. During the period Caritas Moroto established 12 community organizations to undertake the implementation of DRR measures in both Tepeth and Nabwal parishes. Having a good institutional framework is indispensable for effective implementation of DRR interventions and for sustaining risk reduction efforts in the long run. The community organizations take responsibility for management of all stages of DRR interventions. It is also essential for mobilizing local resources for themselves. They act as a link between the community and external partners. Strong community organizations can also be good vehicles for advocating for desirable policy change to local governments.
 - The Community Based Organisations have developed bi-laws and they are in the process of developing their constitution which will be used to register with the local government as legal CBOs who will attract support from both the local government and other stakeholders. This will ensure that the gains will be consolidated as the CBOs progress.

- **Facilitating processes and procedures that promotes taking over of the project implementation:**
 - Some partners facilitated the signing of agreements with communities on how the initiated results will be maintained specifying their roles and what is expected from the NGO. Agreements have also been made on community contributions like land with the land owners so that any potential conflict will be avoided.

- **Involvement of local government officials:**
 - Linking the DRR committees or community organization into the local community governance structure recognizable at the higher sub-county level will be among key steps to enhance the sustainability of the program. In some cases the DRR community organization has been earmarked by the sub county authorities to be given the mandate to take up the role of the Local Disaster Management Committees as defined in the local government structure of administrations.
 - Involvement of the local authorities (both at the sub-count and district levels) in the planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation of project activities. To this effect, Memoranda of Understanding are being drafted and discussed with the district level administration.
 - Agreements made with local or national government on how results will be maintained and/or how the programme will be continued after its timeframe (2014 or 2015). TPO signed a contract with the Local Government specifying what TPO is expected to do and what the local government is expected to provide. For example TPO is expected to send budgets, work plans, reports and involve the local government in the project operations. In the same vein, TPO signed an agreement with National Semi Arid Resources and Research Institute, a government agricultural research institute to support adoption of new technologies aimed at mitigating the effects of drought. This, promoting or initiating the linkages between Public research centre and local target community, will create dissemination of the research services, where the community once felt the results of the research services they will keep on maintaining the established linkages for their benefit..

- **Networking and supporting establishment of local networks or platform.**
 - Two of Cordaid partners are among the core group who facilitated and directed the emergence of DRR platform in Teso area. Currently, this platform started to attract similar donors for the DRR lobby and advocacy intervention at the moment and can signal that any other NGO that would be active within the sub county after 2014 would offer the necessary support to this platform. .

4.2 Quality

The measures aimed to ensure that beneficiaries are satisfied and results are maintained and improved (in terms of quality) include:

- The satisfaction of beneficiaries (community members) is continuously assessed through community meetings, feedback from the DRR committees, and routine monitoring by the project staff. Evidence is showing that the committees are understanding and appreciating the approaches and technologies being promoted and are taking lead in implementation of community action plans.
- Signing of Memorandum of understanding with the district local government, outlining the duties and responsibilities of each party as far as the project outputs and results are concerned. These are already being adhered to by the parties.
- Involvement of designated local government technical staff on project aspects that require technical input. For instance, verification of agricultural inputs, design and construction of water facilities, etc.

The measures that been taken to ensure a standardised way of working (use of formats, processes, standard ways of working and reporting) included:

- TPO uses standardised reporting formats for internal reporting and also standardised assessment and monitoring tools. These tools are used by all the staff implementing this project. Each staff member is given a copy of the proposal which acts as a guiding tool and a point of reference. Caritas Moroto has established a Monitoring and Evaluation system that ensures efficiency by optimum utilization of resources without wastage and which ensures that only those activities necessary for the attainment of outputs are conducted.
- Partner organisations are strictly following the organizational policy guidelines to ensure procurement of quality works, services and supplies, and to ensure the activities implemented are appropriate to the value of money without compromising with the quality of the given activity. Projects are based on the principles of quality and effectiveness to ensure that available resources are used optimally for the achieved activities and outputs.
- The programme implementation is continuously assessed, and improvements are introduced through planned internal quarterly reviews and the involvement of government technical persons in monitoring and follow-up.
- Quality control mechanism are put in place, starting from planning, monitoring which included spot checks, quarterly review meetings in which lessons learnt are shared and activity implementation revisited as per the required standards and criteria. This has enabled the URCS team to assess progress and also streamline the implementation processes.
- One significant improvement has been the collaboration that has brought the local sub-county authority aboard in form of establishing a tree nursery site. SOCADIDO has provided for the seed, while the authorities will maintain the nursery, and avail the seedlings to the other communities throughout the sub-county.
- At community level, implementation is assessed at three levels; during TPO project staff review meetings; at sub county level during the coordination meetings that brings in the Government leadership and other stakeholders and at community level during the quarterly review meetings.

Innovation is being stimulated through:

- Interaction with other NGOs that are implementing similar projects in the region.
- Engaging the communities in inter-community contests in the form of dance, drama and music. The efforts put into these community events generate new ideas, and effectively communicate the same to the rest of the communities.
- Promising awards to the best two performing villages. This has also been stimulated by giving responsibility to the community to take active charge in project implementation. This responsibility is in form of decision making, leadership and management of the project activities at community level. Each community is given a chance to try out what they think can work to solve their problem/ reduce the risk of the identified hazard. TPO staff move around to provide technical guidance when needed.

4.3 Efficiency

With all the considerations the programme costs are kept low in the sense that

At the organization level, efforts are usually made to keep the costs per beneficiary low by combining some activities that would have been carried out separately. For instance, in cases where communities can be brought together for training instead of having separate venues and time, this has always been used. Also when motorised access to the communities is impeded, various communities are asked to converge to a designated venue for delivery of trainings, inputs or information.

Projects are community and family centred which ensures that the costs of service delivery are low while maximising benefits to households. By tapping into existing community resources and social capital through the community support structures approach, communities and households are

empowered to directly participate and contribute to delivery of services hence further bringing down costs of delivery.

As part of human resource recruitment policy, local staff from within the target project area is recruited, ensures that costs of movement and access to essential services provided by the project are much lower. URCS has a small number of staff and many community volunteers who work directly with the communities. This alone has reduced the administrative costs and channel the bigger percentage into the beneficially activities to have a much deeper change.

At times though, the attendant challenges have meant that costs per beneficiary could easily marginally rise. The hike in fuel prices made it quite tight for constant visits by the branches to the communities.