

Partners for Resilience Ethiopia 2013 Annual Report



List of acronyms

ACCRA	African Climate Change Resilience Alliance
ACDRM	Africa Centre for Disaster Risk Management
CMDRR	Community-managed Disaster Risk Reduction
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRM	Disaster Response Management / Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMR	Eco-system Management and Restoration
ESCNCC	Ethiopia Civil Society Network on Climate Change
EWS	Early Warning Systems
KDRRRCs	Kebele Disaster Risk Reduction Committees
PPMEL	Participatory Planning Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PRRRP	Participatory Risk Review reflection Process
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NLRC	Netherlands Red Cross
PfR	Partners for Resilience
PWG	Program Working Group
RCCC	Red Cross Climate Centre
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



This report, covers January – December 2013, presents the progress and shows how the country team members underway in implementing activities to integrate Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Management and Restoration into their Disaster Risk Reduction programmes. Country team members are well underway in implementing activities to integrate Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Management and Restoration into their Disaster Risk Reduction programmes. While some partners have been expanding the number of communities they work with, all have proven regular involvement of local community, disaster risk reduction committees that established purposefully and government offices in planning, implementing and monitoring concrete activities on ground. Also partners have been strengthened firm cooperation with local NGOs/CBOs and other government agencies/knowledge centres, in addition, facilitated cross communities/partners exchange visits at several levels. Finally all partners are engaged in CCA/EMR/DRR policy dialogue at local levels.

The report emphasis on outputs and outcomes of the progresses scored under the three strategic directions and regarding initiatives related to the learning agenda that covers community and national level achievements. It reflects the attempt made by Partner for Resilience that significantly contributed for the progress attained so far.

The report has four sections. The first two sections are about intra-organizational developments that impact on the functioning of individual partners and the country team. The third section provides the progress made in the underscored period based on the output and outcome level program performance framework that highlights the main achievements in mid of 2013. This section also narrates progresses of sample activities of respective partners in line with the three strategic objectives and provides empirical account of lessons learnt. The fourth section also highlights status regarding quality, efficiency and sustainability of the programme in this reporting period.



Intra-organizational developments and the functioning of the country teams

CARE & SSD: Staff retention of both CARE Ethiopia and SSD (implementing local partner) is very good. The project relations with the government and partners are healthy. In addition, the PfR approach has also been scaled up in neighbouring SSD Development Fund Norway supported project in Telalake woreda of Afar Region. Furthermore, The Community lead Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH) approach from CARE WATSN project and establishment of school environmental club from Red Cross experiences that are introduced in the PfR project area as crucial and relevant for public and individual based environmental education and hygiene promotion efforts of PfR.

Cordaid & AFD, ACORD, ECS: Cordaid has expanded PfR programme to Dire Dawa administration and Arero district in Borena Zone of Eastern and Sothern part of the country in partnership with Ethiopia Catholic Secretariat (ECS) and Action for development (AFD), respectively. These newly incepted projects intended to facilitate learning and replicate Cordaid and implementing partners', experiences on the design and implementations of CMDRR processes from the nearby Dire Dawa and Borena areas ongoing projects that significantly contributed building resilience by creating sustainable social and economic development especially for vulnerable parts of the community.

All partners have maintained some of the realized organizational developments. This includes organizational project management team development and the recruitment of new staff in terms of ensuring professional mix to fit into the key thematic areas. All have made effort to further foster the involvement of key stakeholder in the underscored period. In this regard, target communities are facilitated not only to identify their capacities and needs but also to actively engage in operational planning and direct implementation so that the share of the community openly demonstrated as to lend itself to community self-monitoring and evaluation. Similar to community engagement, the local government also took active part in the overall project and operational planning so that the implementation of the project as well as sustainability of project is ensured. This project, therefore, is so participative of relevant and key stakeholders in the project designing, action planning, and implementation and monitoring.

With the interest to ensure community and local stakeholders participation in monitoring of project progress and have spectrum of beneficiary reflection, Participatory Risk Review and Reflection Process (PRRRP) is adopted and exercised as a proper tool and will be continued for the year to come by AFD, ACORD and ECS. The so-collected beneficiary reflections on project progress and associated challenges are documented and used to help take corrective actions in the process of project implementation and also to be used as learning for future interventions.

ERCS: In 2013, ERCS started implementation of a change process with the aim of having effective and efficient service delivery. Capacity building of the national society towards self reliance and strategic partnerships is of priority to ERCS since this is seen as a sustainable way of supporting programmes and core Red Cross activities. In line with the self reliance strategy, the programme contributes annually to capacity building of the implementing branches through contribution to on-going IGA buildings by the branches and improvement of internet connectivity. ERCS has established long term strategic partnership with NLRC and this is a positive development to the change process.

Red Cross and Crescent Climate Centre: In April 2013, Louisa Whitlock took over from Erin Coughlan as contact person for the RCCC for PfR Ethiopia. In April 2013, Louisa Whitlock took over from Erin Coughlan as contact person for the RCCC for PfR Ethiopia. Atta Durrani, who supports the German Red Cross based in Somaliland, is now also in a position to provide in-country support for the PfR country team, particular in areas such as game facilitation and learning workshops.

Wetlands International: in the first half of 2013, Kenya office recruited entirely new programme staff to replace the outgoing ones; programme manager and two programmes associates. The new programme team successfully completed their induction and orientation on Wetlands International mandate and Partners for Resilience in the Climate Proof Disaster Risk Reduction Programme portfolio. This was undertaken in Nairobi and facilitated by staff from both Wetlands International Regional Africa and Netherlands Headquarter Offices. In the last half of 2013, Wetlands International, Kenya office was stable in terms of programme staff turnover. This provided impetus for timely programme implementation and kick-start of direct engagement with Ethiopia PFR Country lead and making contact with PFR Ethiopia partners. The Kenya office managed to recruit permanent Finance Associate to undertake financial management responsibilities which were initially being outsourced.

Functioning of the country team: The country team maintained the functional coordination mechanism in terms of: undertaking regular coordination meetings, exchanging relevant information, facilitating midterm review, and linking PfR with other likeminded partners. At this regular bimonthly coordination meeting where individual partner's progress and experiences shared each other; discuss on pertinent partnership issues and taking decisions collectively. As a result, member partners have jointly reviewed country PfR plan of actions and reports through which individual partners and collective commitments enhanced.

Effort has been made to enhance technical knowledge and skill of PfR member partner's on key principle of resilience vision in the context of PfR at different level. To this effect, Mid Term Review facilitated in Goro Gutu Woreda, ERCS operational area that created a good opportunity to share lessons & experiences, particularly in the areas where partners are motivated to gain knowledge of PfR vision of resilience in terms of planning in landscape and special time, and its effective application.

Partners increasingly share PfR experiences/messages when participating in various regional/national workshops/forums. This was evident that team members who participated in the training facilitated by RCCC Uganda in collaboration with ACCRA, in Addis Ababa have made PfR visibility beyond PfR partners.

The planned joint activities further refined, shaped and prioritized for action over the coming semester. The Country team agreed to focus on the facilitation of regional CCA/DRR/EMR learning and reflection workshop/conference; joint monitoring and cross-partners exchange tour; participation in IDRR days; documentation of CCA/DRR/EMR experiences. In connection to this, the country team suggested that the member alliance at HQ/CTNL provide the required technical support to capacitate partners to draft appropriate and relevant policy agendas based on the existing context and effectively facilitate policy dialogue accordingly.

In this regard, discussions have been facilitated with ACDRM, Oxfam GB, ACCRA and DRMFS for joint engagement in the areas where the country team planned under cross cutting thematic areas though discussion will be continued on its detail implementation modality in the year 2014.

Developments at National Offices

Senior programme officer and coordinator of Cordaid and CARE HQ from The Hague, respectively, facilitated joint monitoring visits at field level and held a discussion with communities, concerned local government experts, project frontline and head office staff

as well as the country lead. Their important programme management support provided during the field visits and discussions have encouraged alliance & local partners to further stridden the implementation and incorporated in 2013 action planning.



Disasters: Reportedly by partners, there have been no significant disaster events in the second six months of 2013 which affected PFR.

Legal developments: In reporting period, after a series of consultation workshops/meetings held among various task working groups established for this purpose and enriched through inputs collected from relevant bilateral agencies, GOs, & NGOs; MOA - DRMFSS in partnership with World Bank have organized a validation workshop for “Disaster Risk Management Strategic Programme and Investment Framework (DRM SPIF)” before the submission to the house of parliamentary for final discussions and endorsement by Ethiopia government. As a member of DRR TWG and editorial board of DRM SPIF, Cordaid passed through in these processes. The participants contributed pertinent inputs as SPIF can provide a strategic framework for the prioritization and planning of investments that will drive Ethiopia’s Disaster Risk Management system. It is designed to operationalise the DRM policy by identifying priority investment areas with estimates of the financing needs to be provided by Government and its development partners. The SPIF is a strategic framework that outlines major areas of investment that can then be more fully fleshed out with development partners moving forward. In this way, it was expected that the greatest buy-in and sense of ownership will be created while clearly following strong government leadership and direction.

Legal developments: Charities and Societies Agency’s (CSA’s) has initiated the feedback forum that is a series of forums organized by the agency’s to listen to and discuss different issues raised by Charities and Societies (ChSOs) over recent years implementation of proclamation 62/2009 (CS law) started.

In June 27, 2013, the feedback forum was organised for ChSos and networks engaged in health and education sectors. A total of about 60 representatives from foreign and Ethiopian resident charities, Government regional bureaux, sector ministries, different organisations, etc attended the workshop. One of the agenda items of the discussion were: The 70/30 guideline implementation – issues and challenges – clarification and input towards specific challenge mentioned by ChSOs.

In response to this issue, the agency stated that ChSOs need to develop the culture of cost cutting and develop their self-regulating mechanisms. In the future, it was stated that some cost items will be reviewed with close. In same forum, the agency's noticed that further feedback forums will be held for ChSOs engaged in agriculture and the environment and other sectors.

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

4

Activities under the three strategic directions



4.1 Introduction

This section of the report presents primarily quantitative based outputs and outcomes progresses scored under the three strategic directions from January to December 2013 as comparison can be made against the target and baseline data.

Secondly, it narrates the progress and shows how the integration of the three approaches stride the initiatives to practical results. It covers the three strategic directions that progressed so far at community and national level achievements.

It is also substantiated with description of sample activities and initiatives taken from each alliance members.

4.2 Brief Summary on the assessment of the results

Strategic Objective 1. Under Community Intervention of the Programme: All alliance members and local partners have carried out significant soft and hardware activities that registered with active involvement of local stakeholders and communities on strengthening their resilience. These activities includes knowledge and skill building supports on DRR/CCA/EMR to prioritize their risks to which they exposed and out of they can develop action plan; construction of water schemes to improve its accessibility; rangeland rehabilitation to avail pasture for livestock in long dry season; physical and biological conservation measures, and seedling production & planting in degraded areas to reduce runoff, conserve soil and its nutrients and enhance water infiltration and retention; improved agricultural practices to ensure food security; to generate income and build assets through ecosystem based livelihood options such as, small scale irrigations, saving and credit coops organizing self help groups, improved beekeeping to better cope with drought; and setting up early warning system and introduction of contingency plans to address and respond to disasters. In line with this, totally 8 mitigation measures (3 CARE, 6 ERCS & 6 Cordaid) have been implemented at national level.

1. Improved Knowledge and skill: As a result of knowledge and skill capacity support on DRR/CCA/EMR, local partners with communities and relevant stakeholders facilitated risk assessments and prioritized their risks to which they exposed that incorporates climate and ecosystem information and out of which community managed action plans have been developed. In this regards, 15 communities facilitated risk assessment and developed action plan. These figure increased the total number of the communities that conducted climate trend risk assessment in the reporting period to 32. Furthermore, Cordaid/AFD in close collaboration with Nyangatom district Health Office and Women & Children Affairs Office have organized awareness creation on gender issues and HIV/AIDS protection measures so that communities would apply the measures.

2. Construction of water schemes: The construction of water schemes, such as, 14 Hand Dug wells/HDWs/, 5 rain water harvesting underground cisterns, 5 ponds, and 3 shallow wells (traditional wells) are progressing well. Some of them were completed (the case in point 3 of 8 HDWs of ERCS) and handed over, where as the remaining are at different percent of completion. The communities participated strongly from the type of water facilities and construction site selection to the

Hand dug well construction in Wagiworgaja Kebele.

600 people from four villages of Wagiworgaja Kebele have started drinking pure water. Women are very happy they are getting water in less than 20 minutes now unlike getting water used take between 30 and 60 minutes previously. When the ongoing 6 hand dug wells are finished more than 2400 people will have access to pure water; about 600 additional people will benefit from the expanded development work as a result of community participation.

implementation. They have played a key role in terms contributing free labour to supplying locally available construction material which is worthwhile of covering the total intervention costs of the project.

3. Climate risk mitigation measure and supports

A. Ecosystem based Rangeland rehabilitation and management: In order to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate and even reverse the multi dimensional climate risks and related challenges, the project has enhanced communities and relevant local government/CBOs/NGOs staff knowledge and skills on the holistic DRR/CCA/ERM approach, as well as natural and man-made hazards, livelihoods coping and adaptation strategies and their inter-linkage with disaster risks and vulnerabilities.

Participatory rangeland management practices in communal grazing land is one of the mitigation measures and climate change adaptation strategies identified during the disaster risk assessment and planning facilitated by implementing partners with communities and local stakeholder. The integral application of scientific knowledge and skills of participatory community led action planning, NRM, land rehabilitation and fodder production systems with existing community indigenous knowledge and practices has created an opportunity for translating the risk analysis into actions, tangible results and successes. Restoration of degraded rangelands through such measures as selective bush clearing, promotion of enclosures & over-sowing and soil and water conservation are the techniques used in this project. In the underscored period; though these techniques totally about 1200 hectares grazing land rehabilitated and community self management systems established in the twelve targeted Kebeles of Cordaid/ACORD, AFD and CARE areas. To this effect, in these degraded rangelands, grass species started to regenerate and growth well with increased biodiversity and availability of livestock feed supply specially in long dry season. Conservation measures like terraces, cut off drains, area closure, etc were in place in a number of sites, protecting against soil erosion

Participatory rangeland rehabilitation-Cordaid/ACORD Area .

After relevant technical trainings (basing on indigenous knowledge and experiences) organized in close cooperation with local Pastoral Development Office, communities have practicing improved rangeland management and utilization system.

In total, 1000 hectare (of which 200 is community contribution) of grazing land reclaimed in clusters of villages neighboring four project PAs of Miyo Woreda. Techniques such as appropriate sites selection, selective bush clearing, over-sowing seeds of adaptable grass seeds, soil and water conservation measures employed during restoration of rangeland.

The total beneficiaries (620HHs) who involved in this activity that implemented through Cash for Work modality have generated cash income.

Pastoralists benefiting from rehabilitated rangeland for breeding animals during wet season and as emergency reserve pasture to be used during long dry season through community self management system established for its efficient utilization.

and reducing surface runoff. From previously developed and improved rangelands management sites, many pastoralists have started cut and carry practices of livestock feed/ hay making for feeding their livestock, reserve for emergencies and some also benefited from increased cash income earning from sales of livestock feed fodder grasses from their closed rangelands. Such improved practices and benefits have drawn high attention and level of participation of community groups and individuals throughout the implementation and management of rangelands for engagement in such diversify ecosystem based livelihood options.

B Ecosystem Based Rehabilitation of degraded micro watersheds:

Communities in ERCS operational areas (Ebinat Woreda in Amhara region and Gorogutu woreda in Oromia region) are committed to increase their effort in rehabilitation of degraded micro watersheds. In these drought-prone areas, ERCS with local communities undertaking reclamation of degraded micro-watersheds through physical and biological soil and water conservation plan, in line with the Ethiopian Government's massive watershed development strategy, implemented basing on community self-management, ecosystem restoration and management on Cash for work basis in order to increase soil rainwater infiltration and enhance ground water recharging and open up farming opportunities for food insecure communities who participated in cash for work scheme. PfR programme provides support to community Self Help organizations and community members in the technical and management aspects of sustainable ecosystem management and response to immediate community needs. During the community action planning, participants reached consensus to boost their contribution in the development of their degraded micro watersheds which is in the following areas: Establishing Kebele watershed management committee for mass mobilize; Bringing conserved areas under closure and ensure its sustainable protection; and draft and enforce bylaws.

The program trained community members on physical structures survey and layout to ensure standard quality and sustainability of the structures. The trained farmers are capable of lay out of the contour line using sprit level.

During the mid year, 89.32 Km Hillside terraces, 7936 Trenches, 7900 Micro basins, 3974 eyebrow Basins, and 629 m³ brush wood check dam have been constructed on 50 hectares in three watersheds, and benefiting over 2500 people. 160, 000 economical (nutritional and income) and local tree seedlings produced in collaboration with agriculture and rural development offices are planted and there are more than 340,000 seedlings to be planted in July 2013.

The conserved local environment has started to regenerate, springs reappeared (Medhisa Jalala kebele of Gorogutu woreda and Wagiworgaja Kebele of Ebinat

Woreda). Decreased run off and soil erosion, increased growth of grasses and local trees have led to observable changes in the landscape.

Agricultural productivity is increasing, the conflicts are resolved, and fodder availability is improving. Dry climate conditions no longer signify hunger and migration, as communities are building resilience to drought.

4. Livelihoods Diversification: Similar to the recent past livelihood diversifications initiatives of the PFR project, the innovative community resilience enhancement strategy employed and an intensive awareness creation on community level saving methodology was made for most of self help women groups. In the reporting period, 8 cooperatives (CARE:1 SACCO, ACORD 4 SACCOs and AFD: 1 SACCO and 1 Livestock marketing coop) established in close collaboration with district Cooperative promotion office, and relevant trainings organized for members and elected executive committees.

- The programme distributed 230 goats (46 male and 184 female) for 46 women headed and poorest male beneficiaries (5 goats each) in Yekaumema and yekajalela Kebele of Gorogutuworeda on Goat revolving basis.

Asset building through Goat distribution on revolving basis is found more convenient form of providing the poorest rural community members with micro finance. The first beneficiary transfers 5 new born goats to the waiting beneficiary in three years time. The waiting beneficiary supports the first beneficiary during this period and this is creating more social and economic ties. Fast rate of reproduction of Goat enables the beneficiaries to build their asset base in relatively shorter period of time.

5. Improved Agricultural practices:

A. Response to immediate needs of the Community and building trust in PFR programme: Integrated DRR/CCA/EMR approach is encouraging communities to make their own decisions and take ownership of disaster risk reduction and adaptation plans. Recurrent drought and rainfall variability, and shifting raining patterns are undermining the reliability of rain fed agriculture. As a result above 80% of the targeted rural population in both woreda are chronically food insecure (PFR Ethiopia: the baseline survey report, PP 18).

During the disaster risk assessment and risk mapping, both Ebinat and Gorogutu Communities prioritized support for improved early maturing crops varieties and asset building interventions for immediate needs along with adaptive capacity building and identifying and addressing underlying causes of vulnerability.

ERCS understood the need for improving the resilience of these communities is of utmost importance. Accordingly, 368 targeted farmers in two kebeles supported with 612 kg early maturing Maize and 3200kg Haricot Beans seeds they prioritized for meher/short rainy season and technical trainings. This support is building their confidence to adapt to weather variability. As a result the community built trust in

PfR program and boosted their participation in the implementation of their long-term plan.

B. Linking DRR/CCA/EMR approach with Farmers Field Adaptation

Learning initiative: Poor soil fertility and shortage of farmlands, outdated farming practices, shortage of moisture and shorter farming seasons leave about 86% of the target kebele community in Ebinat woreda chronically food insecure. Weather variability is exacerbating the vulnerability of the community. Uncertainty of weather variability is surpassing local knowledge to predictions for the coming season. Scientific climate information on the other hand, often relies on only few existing meteorological stations that are meant to serve a large geographical area, and which may not capture local climatic conditions. These call for the need to building farmers adaptive capacity through strengthening their knowledge, access to information, inputs, innovative techniques and increasing ability to make more informed and anticipatory decisions. ERCS incorporated FFLA on the ongoing DRR/CCA/EMR integration approach.

To this effect, ERCS in collaboration with Ebinat woreda agriculture office has linked with Ethiopian meteorological agency (EMA) for successful implementation farmer's field adaptation learning (FFAL) that aims to provide an opportunity for learning, sharing and training in local communities on the selected farmers' plots.

EMA committed to provide technical expertise and 20 Plastic rain gages to be fixed on the farmers field. ERCS in collaboration with EMA organized training on integrated and improved technologies of agricultural practices, use of agro meteorological data for informed decision making, recording and interpretation of recorded rainfall amount data, and use of plastic rain gage for 20 farmers and 7 agricultural experts practically. ERCS also provided the required inputs (650Kg DAP, 650kg Urea fertilizers, 300kg improved wheat seed, and 50kg improved bean seed) for farmers experimentation.

Strategic Objective 2. Strengthening of Civil Society: The report shows about the second strategies in terms of the collaboration that brought partners closer together and exposed them to innovative ways of working that have strengthened their own organisation. In order to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate and even reverse the multi dimensional climate risks and related challenges, the project has enhanced communities and relevant local government/CBOs/NGOs staff knowledge and skills on the holistic DRR/CCA/ERM approach, as well as natural and man-made hazards, livelihoods coping and adaptation strategies and their inter-linkage with disaster risks and vulnerabilities.

The partnership itself contributed to strengthened civil society – within the Partners for Resilience set-up – partners have established strong ties between themselves as well as with other relevant CBOs, GOs and NGOs. As a result we are seeing the integrated approach being embraced by non-PfR partners as well. Our expectation is that this will strengthen the push with governments to prioritise the integrated approach of disaster risk reduction – climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration in their development plans

In the reporting period, community institutions leaders and members have been reinforced through trainings, experience sharing visits and consultative meetings and all are supporting their communities to implement risk management and development plan and bylaws

- The integrated DRR/CCA/EMR approaches have contributed to breaking the vicious cycle of pastoral communities' dependency for external resources and aid. As a result of the project empowerment support, communities in the target areas now days don't expect merely money, but they have started to plan, activate and maintain local development and other NRM activities by their own.
- The establishment of community DRR committee and institutional set up processes promoted Community Early warning System at local village, kebele & woreda levels. The community DRR and EWS linked with the woreda EWS. In line with this, communities have prepared their own development action and preparedness plans and have started to implement them.
- In the 27 project Kebeles, CM/DRR committees at each targeted communities and project/implementing partners frontline staff have good relationship and joint engagement with government at local levels . This helps to establish close collaboration/cooperation providing the required technical support and activate dialogues among themselves and with neighbouring DRR committees.
- Through the CMDRR committees, project communities are able to articulate their needs to government officials who are responsive and supportive to the project whenever problems arise and able to quickly detect and react to emergency situations.
- The project has linked efforts of CBOs/ community institutions and local leaders with local government experts and decision makers for the effective inclusion and management of disaster risk reduction, CCA and ESMR issues in development programs and to increase participation of civil society organizations in service delivery.
- The establishment of cooperation with partners and strengthen local capacity of CSOs to enable them to facilitate the implementation of

Study, establish and functionalize people-centred EWS for its harmony with existing government EWS.

The project planned to design and establish effective People-Centred Early Warning System in the Woreda. Based on this, last year the study was conducted on People-centred Early Warning System in the eight beneficiary kebeles of the Woreda. The overall objective of the assessment was to conduct an in-depth study to existing EWS in Nyangatom and recommend appropriate strategies and mechanisms of developing Effective People-centred Early Warning System.

For this reporting period the study result document was shared with relevant Woreda stakeholders to help them monitor and assist communities. Also, the Kebele level early warning committee is using the developed formats to monitor early warning indicators and share the result with the beneficiary community members.

Support community in the preparation and the application

Community contingency plan was facilitated by Woreda Disaster Management Committee and Project staff to respond to potential crises that might arise in the following years. The community members in 8 target kebeles of Nyangatom Woreda participated in the contingency planning processes. The application of the contingency plan would take place based on the realization of the foreseen disaster event(s).

DRR/CCA,EMR and advocate for the PfR relationship with individuals, community level CBOs/CSOs and the government has been started.

Strategic objective 3. Policy Dialogue: In this report, the third strategic direction – policy dialogue is narrated with description of activities that have worked by partners with encouraging communities, CBOs and local government involvement. Obviously such dialogues and exchange learning resulted more practical engagement with communities/CBOs and GOs/NGOs, and the various ways of working within our alliance despite the challenges that limit NGOs working in policy advocacy. As a result, to overcome the challenges, most of the planned activities under the third strategic direction further shaped and prioritized over the coming semester. In this regard, the country team suggest that the member alliance at HQ/CTNL provide the required technical support to enhance the capacity of partners to draft appropriate and relevant policy agendas based on the existing context and effectively facilitate policy dialogue accordingly.

In order to support the policy dialogue component and to serve as replication project, PfR has started documentation of its experience, lessons and best practices. Major documentation includes activities like data collection, knowledge hunting, documenting and sharing of the PfR experiences.

The linking and learning agenda of the PfR to build effective working relationships with local and other civil society organisations to share knowledge and build foundation for policy and advocacy has also began. Review of the original project plans and communises six months plan was done as part of a clear understanding on the approaches, revision of designed measures that are not DRR/CCA/EMR proof with 'new' knowledge gained during the project implementation process.

A. **Organize experience sharing visit for CPDRR committee:** A team of 32 committee members represented from Water User Association, Rangeland Management, kebele administrators, and 5 people from woreda line offices, 3 development agents and 3 project staffs traveled about 200 km to Awura and Euwa woredas and participated in experience sharing visit which took three days; from June 18- 20, 2013.

The communities in the visited areas had a long and good experience in the execution and continuation of community's irrigation farm, natural resource

conservation practices, livelihood diversification and community's participation in project implementation as a result of SSD's intervention in the area.

The visiting team has seen a very wide irrigable land, harvested crops and maize stalks collected and deposited at the top of an acacia tree branches and on the farm land that was fenced with thorn. The visitors asked various questions and the hosting community members provided the necessary answers.

Following the visit the project observed motivation in most participants and as a result farming activity started in klintina Kebele, and rangeland development activities have also carried out in the four kebeles.

B. Facilitate Participatory Risk Review and Reflection Process (PRRRP) sessions

The project planned to facilitate periodical community level PRRRP sessions with participation of concerned stakeholders (community, government line offices and AFD PFR staffs). The session was carried out in the respective 8 project beneficiary Kebeles of Nyangatom Woreda from March 03 - 10, 2013. The participants were selected from beneficiaries of the project in the areas of rangeland management, community animal health service delivery, water development, capacity building & awareness raising activities and DRR working groups. The total participants of the sessions were 305 beneficiary people of which 105 were female.

Facilitators of the process were drawn from AFD and Nyangatom Woreda government line departments (namely Pastoralist Development Office, Water, Mines & Energy Office, Women Affairs Office, Administration office, Finance & Economic Development office). The respective kebele level CMDRR committees also played role in the facilitation of the process. During the PRRRP sessions the community conducted analysis of strength, weakness, opportunity and constraint on the role of concerned stakeholders and their application on project interventions.

The identified strengths were:

- Participants of the PRRRP at each Kebele level confirmed that the PFR project interventions appropriately address the needs and priorities of the community.
- That the project interventions encouraged the community to work in groups
- That community members are being guided by the established committees of the project

The limitations identified were:

- That community members are still tending to obtain free-handouts from the project
- That some of the project activities are behind implementation schedule

C. Joint monitoring by key stakeholders at woreda level (Community, GO & NGOs)

The monitoring process began with desktop review of project progress and discussion was held among monitoring team. This was followed by field observation and discussion with direct project beneficiaries. Project activities which were being implemented by the project in Ayipa, Lorenkachew, Chare and Kopriya kebeles were visited by monitoring team. The monitoring team visited water schemes, CMDRR information centers, rangeland reclamation sites, CAHWs and DRR working groups. The participants of the monitoring were community representatives at their respective kebeles, government line offices (Finance and economic development; Pastoral Development, women and children affairs, water and mines resource development Offices, and EWFS unit) and AFD PFR staffs. The joint monitoring was carried out from May 30-03 June 2013.

Some of the positive aspects observed with the project as reported by the team include:

- Improved community participation in the project implementation process,
- Improved stakeholder participation in providing support for the project implementation
- Better initiation of DRR committee in project implementation process

The team also disclosed limitations including:

- That the speed of project implementation needs to take big pace
- That local language barrier with frontline development facilitators to properly communicate with the local people,
- That daily labourer payment is delayed from AFD side

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

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

5.1 Introduction

The fourth section also highlights status and initiatives regarding quality, efficiency and sustainability of the programme in this reporting period.

5.2 Sustainability:

The PfR programme is designed with an aim of creating a strong self-sustained community and more resilience to climate change induced hazards. In order to contribute towards the goal and meet its three strategic objectives, the project for the last 30 months has played significant role in reducing vulnerabilities of communities through implementation of appropriate mitigation and capacity building activities. However, ensuring the sustainability of outputs and outcomes and such initiatives is not as easy as implementing the activities. Project sustainability can be seen in terms of the view and readiness of the community and government to take over the project outputs and outcomes and scaled up. The following major factors are taken in to account to ensure sustainability while planning and implementing the project.

5.2.1 Technical/technological sustainability:

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

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

5.3 Quality:

PfR alliance member and local partners have been employing participatory risk review and reflection process (PRRRP) to measure community level of satisfaction with the project achievement. This local level project review sessions held at district and community level in the last six months of 2013 implementation period. Comparisons of achievements against the baseline data made. It also uses external evaluation report to gauge the overall achievement and community view with respect to level of satisfaction (community indicators will be developed to trace which typical intervention brought about the level of satisfaction enjoyed by the beneficiaries.

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

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

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

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

5.4 Efficiency:

Throughout the course of project implementation in line with established strategic objectives, all the necessary changes have been made with sufficient flexibility to adapt to the changing environment and accommodate various needs of the targeted communities. The results attained witnessed that the intended project outcomes will be achieved in a way that would attain high level of target community satisfaction, success, sustainability and achieving scalability.

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

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

Capacity Building , Strengthening Civil Society

Civic engagement	The organizations are accountable and responsive to stakeholders <i>Partners” prepare yearly reports and these are shared to the stakeholders on demand. Furthermore, the submission of annual programme plan, achievement and audit report by all partners are expected by the new CSA legislation.</i>
Level of organization	(all aims covered by targets under the three strategic directions)
Practise of values	The target group is involved in decision making. The organizations have transparent financial procedures and practices transparent financial reporting.
Perception of impact	(all aims covered by targets under the three strategic directions)
Environment	(all aims covered by targets under the three strategic directions)

For southern partner organizations (programme element 3):

Capability to act and control	Strategy is elaborated in workplans and activities/ projects The organization’s leadership is accountable to staff and stakeholders
Capability to achieve	The organizations have a well-functioning PME system
Capability to relate	The organizations are accountable and responsive to stakeholders

Capability to adapt and renew	The organizations have a well-functioning PME system
Capability to achieve coherence	Strategy is elaborated in workplans and activities/ projects % of organizations in which efficiency is addressed in the external annual financial audit