

CLIMATE CHANGE CASE STUDY: UK International Climate Finance in Action

Helping Communities Adapt to Climate Change in Africa

Climate change will significantly affect poor and vulnerable rural communities in Africa who are dependent on agriculture, fishing and livestock for food and income – livelihoods that are particularly vulnerable to climate variability. Helping communities to adapt and prepare for climate change is crucial to tackling poverty.

UK International Climate Finance

The UK Government established the **International Climate Fund (ICF)** in 2011 as part of its commitment to reduce poverty by helping developing countries adapt to climate change, take up low carbon growth and tackle deforestation. The ICF will provide **£3.87 billion of climate finance** from within the existing UK aid budget from **2011 to 2016**.

The ICF contributed to the UK delivering its pledge of almost **£1.55 billion “Fast Start” finance between 2010 - 2012**.

Community-based adaptation

Community Based Adaptation (CBA) is an increasingly popular approach to support vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change. The UK government is supporting CARE to help **40 rural communities and 11 local governments** in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Niger adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) has been testing a number of CBA models. Examples include;

- **Participatory scenario planning:** To enable multi-stakeholder access and discussion of seasonal weather forecasts to support flexible adaptation planning.

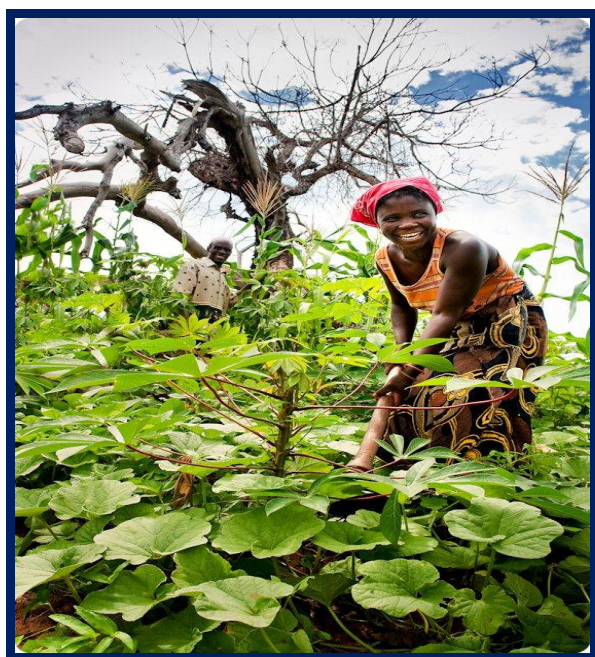
- **Farmer Field Schools (FFS):** To build adaptive capacity in relation to resilient farming systems, which promote environmental sustainability alongside more secure production and fostering innovation.
- **Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning Systems (EWS):** To enable more localised information on vulnerability to support informed decision making and action which is suited to the local context.
- **Community monitors:** Supporting local communities to record rainfall and monitor risk, which will support many vulnerable, non-literate groups to gain adaptive capacity and contribute their knowledge to adaptation planning.
- **Community based adaptation plans:** Supporting communities to plan and prioritise their own adaptation priorities.

The CBA models help communities build resilience, for example, boosting harvests over the longer-term and protecting incomes and wealth, such as cattle, from floods and droughts. This means people have more money for healthcare, send children to school and families have a more secure source of food and experience less hunger and malnutrition.

Three years into the programme, **almost 18,000 people** have been supported to diversify their livelihoods strategies, **65% of them women**.

Valuing women

Recognising that women are often the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, CBA places a particular focus on the inclusion of women and ensuring greater gender equality in adaptation decision making. Rural women's voices on the meaning of resilience give useful food for thought for CBA practitioners.



In Niger women are creating tree nurseries for environmental protection, wind and fire breaks; and farmers are multiplying seeds to enable local access to early maturing millet and cowpea crops, which are drought tolerant. In Niger and Ghana, community monitors are using rain gauges to record weather to combine with seasonal forecasts and enable better predictions for the next seasons.

Impacts

Over half a million additional individuals are expected to benefit from the adoption of the approaches developed and promoted by the programme. By helping communities to assess seasonal climate forecasts,

combined with their own knowledge and observations based on scientific evidence, communities can **develop their own plans** for adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

In the longer-term, it is hoped that a further **10 million poor people** across Africa will benefit from the approaches piloted in this programme, by sharing and distributing knowledge through other local organisations.

Adaptation through Farmer Field Schools in Mozambique

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) help a number of small holder farmers through a range of participatory teaching methods, specially adapted to adult learning. Farmers regularly visit the FFS to experiment with different farming techniques and crop varieties, in order to observe and analyse how and why different outcomes are generated.

In the Angoche District of Nampula, CARE International and the National Association of Rural Extension (AENA) are using FFS to strengthen linkages between agriculture service providers and local communities, to promote the use of sustainable agriculture techniques. ALP Mozambique is among the 5 CARE and AENA projects which are currently implementing 50 FFS, with around 1,250 participants within vulnerable coastal and inland communities in Nampula Province.

FFS enables farmers to analyse their own techniques and local knowledge to assess the value of new practices. It also strengthens farmer organisations and provides social benefits to increase solidarity among members and strengthening the voice of women farmers within the community.

FFS also aims to promote more effective and efficient linkages to agriculture and other key services, for example, farmers in Angoche are now discussing access to weather information via text messages to local disaster risk reduction agents or through radio.

Many ALP community members are now reporting that their FFS is supporting farmers to address climate change impacts and are keen to broaden their adaptation measures for better risk management and more resilient livelihoods.

Benefits that can be passed onto others

The Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) is designed to help communities have a bigger say in local decision-making on how adaptation resources are distributed. ALP supports communities to express their needs and priorities and provides support to make changes, such as introducing new varieties of drought-resilient crops and setting up systems for storing food and protecting livestock during extreme weather.

By sharing information and ideas across a network of communities the programme is able to identify the best approaches for building resilience to climate change, helping communities adapt to climate change impacts, and tackling poverty. Valuable and practical learning products and resources are being developed as a result of the ALP, including guidance on participatory scenario planning and evidence on the economic benefits of Community Based Adaptation.

The projects aim to make an immediate difference to people's lives as well as investing in longer term approaches for a more secure future. It is hoped that more people will benefit through these

approaches being scaled up and replicated in other African countries.

The UK Government is contributing **£4.3 million ICF funding** to the CARE Adaptation Learning Programme between 2010 - 2014. This initiative is also supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Denmark and Finland and the Austrian Development Corporation.

Rural communities in Africa will benefit from:

- Improved knowledge and information sharing to help them develop their own plans for tackling and adapting to climate change
- Adopting new agricultural practices that increase crop yields and boost incomes
- Better protection against extreme climate events, through disaster risk reduction plans, access to financial services and environmental actions such as tree planting and firebreaks
- More say in local planning decisions

About CARE

CARE is one of the world's three biggest aid agencies. It fights poverty in more than 70 countries and every year helps around 59 million people find a way out of poverty. Its mission is to create lasting change in poor communities.