



## CARE & climate change

### COLLABORATING

CARE is collaborating with governments and private sector institutions, as well as a wide range of civil society organisations to address the challenge of climate change. For example:

In Brazil, CARE has joined forces with the private sector company Cantor CO2e to help the State of Piauí develop its policy framework for climate change. These policies address the urgent need to support community-based adaptation activities and the regulation of bio-fuels production to ensure it reduces rather than worsens poverty.

In Guatemala, CARE is collaborating with Del Valle University to implement the *Mi Bosque* (My Forest) project. This relationship has enabled the development of a methodology to measure carbon sequestration — the process that removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The methodology involves a combination of satellite imaging and on-the-ground validation by community members. By working hand-in-hand with local government authorities, the *Mi Bosque* project has done more than improve farm productivity, diversify incomes and reduce the risk of landslides. Indeed, it has created a culture of cooperation amongst local government authorities, improved their relations with communities and established the recurrent allocation of funds from public budgets to support agro-forestry activities.

In Indonesia, CARE helped draft a Presidential Decree promoting a more equitable suite of climate change policies. The Decree addressed national needs to train farmers (especially women farmers) in techniques that reduce their vulnerability to climate variability and change, help communities adapt to climate change, and introduce weather-based crop insurance for small-scale farmers.

CARE has also joined alliances (such as the Working Group on Development and Climate Change/"Up in Smoke Group" and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance) concerned with influencing and implementing international policy frameworks. Several CARE International members and country offices are also engaged in alliances focusing on national-level climate change policies (e.g. the Canadian Coalition for Climate Change and Development). In addition, CARE is a member of broad alliances (such as CONCORD, InterAction and the Danish 92-Group) that have begun to address climate change under their scope of work.

CARE is also actively collaborating with other institutions addressing the consequences of climate change, including the International Institute for Environment and Development; International Institute for Sustainable Development; International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University; U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention; Oxfam; the World Agro-forestry Centre (ICRAF) and WWF.

"Climate change is worsening the plight of those hundreds of millions men, women and children who already live in extreme poverty — and it threatens to push hundreds of millions more people into similar destitution. A concerted international response to this unprecedented challenge is required if we are to avoid catastrophic human suffering."

Dr. Robert Glasser, Secretary General CARE International

For more information about CARE's comprehensive response to climate change, visit our Web site at [www.careclimatechange.org](http://www.careclimatechange.org) or write to [info@careclimatechange.org](mailto:info@careclimatechange.org)

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Innovating, Communicating, Collaborating



*This had been 10-year-old Sharikon's home in Bangladesh. The flood waters came in the night and took everything but her family's lives.*

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*In Tanzania, the Ambangulu Women's Group is working with one of CARE's local partners to plant trees on farm fields and surrounding land. The native species they have chosen will provide additional sources of income while sequestering greenhouse gases.*

CARE seeks a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

CARE recognises that climate change may pose the greatest threat in history to realising this vision. The scientific evidence leaves no doubt that climate change is already occurring, and many of the people we serve are experiencing its consequences in their day-to-day lives. They tell us that changes are causing:

- More people to suffer from hunger
- More people to live without access to adequate water
- An increase in health threats
- A decline in the productivity of natural resource based livelihoods
- An increase in the frequency, scale and intensity of conflicts over natural resources — especially water

The world's poorest people are the hardest hit by climate change though they have contributed least to causing it. In order to reduce their vulnerability, we need to dramatically expand their access to the information, financial resources and technical support that facilitate adaptation to climate change. We also need to confront those persistent socio-economic and political inequities that limit poor people's ability to adapt.

### CARE's Response to Climate Change

CARE's broad response to climate change is commensurate with the scope and severity of the challenge. In keeping with our core poverty-fighting mission, CARE's focus is on helping the most vulnerable communities adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. We are doing this by INNOVATING, COMMUNICATING and COLLABORATING.

### INNOVATING

Climate change cannot be addressed by continuing to conduct "business as usual." It requires **new** thinking, **new** standards and **new** tools, as well as **new** partnerships to translate them into decisive action.

CARE is concentrating its creativity in the following three areas:

#### 1. Adaptation

CARE takes a people-centred approach to adaptation. This entails practical strategies to reduce disaster risks, as well as risks associated with less predictable rainfall, shifting disease vectors, etc. CARE works with local organisations to promote more resilient livelihoods (through agricultural innovations, the revitalisation of traditional knowledge and diversification) and tackle the underlying causes of vulnerability (through capacity development, social mobilisation and advocacy).

In pursuit of these goals, CARE is creating new conceptual models and participatory methodologies. For example, our Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment tool helps stakeholders:

- Identify especially vulnerable regions and communities
- Understand the consequences of climate change for different social groups within these communities
- Design projects that provide immediate benefits and build adaptive capacity for further climate change

CARE is building on its experience carrying out adaptation projects by developing regional "learning programs." CARE's learning programs function as incubators and test-beds for ground-breaking ways to design, implement, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation projects. They also demonstrate the complementary roles that national government, local authorities and civil society can play in helping highly vulnerable people adapt to the impacts of climate change.

#### 2. Making Carbon Markets Work for Poor People

The Kyoto Protocol, which entered into force in February 2005, trig-

gered the birth of carbon markets. Both compliance and voluntary markets have subsequently taken off. As a result, enormous amounts of money are changing hands through the buying and selling of carbon credits. However, poor people are largely excluded from participating in these transactions.

CARE is addressing this injustice by aggressively promoting multiple-benefit projects that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gases, reduce poverty and conserve critical ecosystems. For example, CARE is:

- Implementing innovative agro-forestry and avoided deforestation projects in Guatemala, Indonesia and East

Timor

- Developing a cutting-edge portfolio of forestry and land-use change projects in Africa, Asia and South America together with the World Agro-Forestry Centre (ICRAF) and WWF
- Pioneering the equitable use of carbon markets to accelerate the spread of fuel-efficient cook stoves in Africa



*In 2006, drought struck the Horn of Africa again. More than six million people in four countries were affected.*

Developing a first-of-kind Social Carbon Fund in Brazil which promotes multiple-benefit carbon projects and generates income to support additional poverty reduction projects

- Establishing much needed standards for forestry and land-use projects through our membership in the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance

### 3. Organisational Change

CARE is adapting what we do, where we work and how we operate to the reality of climate change. This entails undertaking a wide range of activities, such as:

- Investing in the development of new tools to make CARE's projects "climate smart" and ensure sustainable impacts
- Taking responsibility for our own carbon footprint by reducing air travel, reducing office-based emissions, and gradually offsetting the remainder through the purchase of carbon credits from certified multiple-benefit projects
- Educating staff about the significance of climate change and encouraging them to make a difference in their professional and private lives

### COMMUNICATING

CARE is using its extensive network to inform key stakeholders and the public at large about the human cost of climate

change through targeted presentations, photo exhibitions, videos, newsletters and Web sites, and by making staff available for newspaper, radio and television interviews.

Meanwhile, CARE is sharing lessons learnt, new methodologies and best practices with other NGOs through CARE Web sites, publications, participation in professional conferences, formal partnerships and informal networking.

CARE is also engaging in advocacy. We are communicating facts, insights and perspectives to policymakers so that they can make more effective and equitable decisions. CARE is an organisation of hands-on experts. Sharing our substantial field-based experience enriches both the content and process of policy dialogues. In brief: we know a lot about what can work, what won't, who is most likely to benefit, who won't and why. Our operational focus and extensive field presence also provide us with extraordinary opportunities to monitor and assess the implementation of policies to address climate change. We can therefore provide invaluable feedback on the impact policies are having — or failing to have — on people's lives.