



Spreading the news of rain and drought using community radio

Information sharing is one of the key aspects of early warning system. Early warning informations which is generated by various organizations and governemnt agencies hardly reaches the end users for which the information is most useful for. Even though it reach, they either don't know what it measn in their real life or/and they don't know what actions to take. To partly address these gaps URCS with PfR project established community radio in four operational communities (2 in Katakwi and 2 in Apch). Two CBDRR (Community based disaster risk reduction) committee members were trained in passing the simplified early warning and early action messages to the community in their local language. The radio covers at least three kilometer of radius and reaches the entire village. It has really enhanced information passing as all community members get similar messages at the same time. Communities have been adviced when to prepare land, when to start planting, when to harvest, when to avoid flood lines, etc. In addition to passing early warning information, it also used to make various announcement to the community (such as meetings, information on visitors, social events etc).



Community radio in Ongatunyo Parish Katakwi

The radio uses solar power and mega-phone and two trained comunity members do minor maintainance in case of malfunctioning. Now this intervention has also brought unintended benefit to the community such as charging of mobile phones (using the solar power) at a cost and announcing personal matters (funeral etc) at a cost of 500 Ugandan Shilling per message.

Replication: - Some PNSs have already requested support from URCS PfR team to replicate this intervention in their operational areas in other parts of the country.

Challenges: - The radio is still installed in vouldntary individual houses for its proper custody. It would be good to put such a facility in a communal place where the announcers always feel free to use the facility. If there is a serious damage to the radio, the trained community members may not be able to fix it (though it has not happened so far).