



## PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

April 2012

### Unpacking Resilience in a resilience workshop in The Hague.



On March 7 and 8, a resilience workshop took place in the Humanity House in The Hague. The main objective of the workshop was to get a deeper understanding of the concept resilience and discuss further operationalization in the context of the alliance. Several experts, amongst others 'resilience guru' John Twigg, were invited to update the participants with the latest developments in resilience thinking. Moreover, participants from PfR partners in Uganda, Indonesia and India also shared their

views on how resilience will look in practice. The workshop was a success and a first important step in the drafting of a vision document on resilience, which will be shared for the input of all country teams. Updates regarding further development in resilience thinking at country level are warmly welcome.

### Special report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Weather Events (SREX)

On 28 March 2012, the IPCC released the full special report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Weather Events. In recent years, extreme weather and climate events have taken many lives and caused billions of dollars in economic losses. Is climate change leading to increases in the number and severity of extreme events? How do social and environmental factors interact with weather and climate events to create disasters? And what can be done to make societies more resilient to extremes? A Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) – assesses the scientific information on these questions. The print edition of the report is due to be published in mid-May. Please find the details on the report [here](#), including some valuable insights into best practices and experiences.

### IRI/Climate Centre seasonal forecast for April–June is out

Please visit the [Climate Centre website](#) for the latest update.

### Exciting PfR spin-off with CDKN Asia: Facilitating innovative learning and policy dialogues, building upon delivery at scale in 'Partners for Resilience'

This new CDKN project in Asia seeks to utilise opportunities arising from the Partners for Resilience (PfR). It will derive and utilise evidence-based lessons learnt from PfR experiences to shape policies for scaling up community resilience building in the context of disasters and climate change. This meets an urgent policy demand for practice-based guidance and tools to enable climate-smart disaster risk reduction at the local level, as a contribution to overall climate-compatible development. Through this project, the Partners for Resilience, and especially its Indonesia and

Philippines country teams, aim to contribute to the expressed policy demands in the context of climate-compatible development, utilizing their locally-grounded experience to advance local, national, regional and international policy and practice.

This learning by doing approach aims to link on-the-ground research to policy makers, a key aim of the CDKN. For more information: [falk@climatecentre.org](mailto:falk@climatecentre.org).

### **A new game experience in Nicaragua**



Last February, six communities near Somoto, Nicaragua experienced the power of games as a fun, innovative and effective tool to promote learning about climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sound ecosystem management. In each of the six communities, encircled by neighbors and friends, twelve community members took their places around a board and played a game in which the winners were those players able to grow their crops, protect their assets, and feed their families at the end of each

round -- all while managing the risk of floods and drought, represented by dice. The game was a simplified version of the reality these players live day to day yet the dialogue that followed the game play was rich with observations about the players' risk management strategies during the game, and the actions and consequences of similar decisions they make every day in the much more complex context of real life. For more information, please contact Carina Bachofen ([bachofen@climatecentre.org](mailto:bachofen@climatecentre.org)).

### **Participatory Video (PV) training in Katakwi Uganda**

In February 2012, ten PfR field delegates from around Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Senegal and Mali) traveled to Katakwi, Uganda to learn how to help farmers become filmmakers, during a five day Participatory Video (PV) training. After two days of initial training in video techniques and participatory video facilitation, trainees traveled to a Uganda Red Cross Society field site and began introducing video documentation techniques to community members. Despite having never held video cameras, community members quickly learned basic techniques and began scripting their own films around changes in the climate and dry-season fire risks in their community. In just one and a half days, the filming process was complete and trainees began editing the footage collected by the community filmmakers. On the last day of the PV training, the completed films were screened in the community, with a large crowd of community members watching the work of their peers in amazement and awe. The PfR trainees reported that the PV process significantly built their own video production capacity and that they were keen to begin their own PV projects in their country of work. For more information contact: Julie Arrighi at [arrighi@climatecentre.org](mailto:arrighi@climatecentre.org).

### **A new round of PfR summer internships 2012**

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre has engaged several Masters students to work with Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the field of disaster risk reduction. These students will carry out research this coming summer (May-August) that investigates patterns and possibilities in the interface between climate information and humanitarian action. Find the innovative research topics here and for more information, take a look at the [Young Scholars page](#) or contact Erin Coughlan at [Coughlan@climatecentre.org](mailto:Coughlan@climatecentre.org).

### **New report from Global Humanitarian Assistance offers new insights in humanitarian aid and DRR**

A new report from the Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) programme has been released which provides a comprehensive view of the levels of international spending on disaster risk reduction (DRR), placed in the context of need and vulnerability. It reveals the shockingly low levels of investment and inequities of funding in this area at a time when the need for enhanced focus on the reduction of risk is paramount. The full report can be found [here](#).

### **Initiation of biorights in Guatemala**

PfR partners in Guatemala organized a kick-off meeting for a new bio-rights project in Nahuala, Solola, Guatemala. This event was organized by Wetlands International and CARE/Vivamos Mejor and took place in Mazatenango, Guatemala on the 28th and 29th of February 2012. During the first day the bio-rights team was informed on the current situation in the project working area. This information was abstracted from the risk assessments and the baseline study done for the PfR programme, and some external studies. The team was trained in the bio-rights methodology and discussed the ideal way of working and project planning. Since the new bio-rights project is in the same area as the PfR project; the bio-rights activities will be closely linked to the PfR activities.

### **Seeking the linkages in Guatemala**

PfR partners in Guatemala and Nicaragua will be participating in a regional workshop in May on the links between the logical framework, the monitoring and evaluation system and the learning agenda. Also the methodologies outcome mapping and participatory video monitoring will be discussed among the partners. Outcome mapping is a participative monitoring methodology that focuses on the monitoring of behavioural change within the communities for which video monitoring can serve as a helpful reporting tool. One of the local partners in Guatemala already uses video monitoring in their projects which have a special interest among the youth. One of the desired outcomes of this event will be the foundation for the local monitoring systems for the PfR Programme and the bio-rights project.

### **Communicating the PfR approach through music in Kenya**



Partners in Kenya involved local musician Abdi Godana Boru in their work. Abdi is engaged in agriculture and has a passion and talent for music; although financial constraints and his family responsibilities did not permit him to produce his own album yet. MID-P, one of the implementing partners invited Abdi for their local community managed disaster risk reduction training. Like others, Abdi used to think disaster is given while humans cannot control it. The training helped the participants including Abdi to open their eyes and see disaster from a different perspective; that people can do a lot to improve their situation and avoid or minimize the impact of disasters. With this understanding and the experience that music can be useful tool to convey complicated and sensitive messages to a wider public, he wanted to pass the message to the community. Therefore he participated in a recent DRR/CCA/EMR training, sharing his experience and his CMDRR songs with the participants. This example showed that music and awareness rising on an integrated DRR approach can go hand in hand.

### **Community Based Adaptation Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam**

This week community-based adaptation stakeholders and practitioners from around the world will be convening in Vietnam to discuss and document the latest learning and good practices around climate change adaptation; with an ultimate goal of enhancing global capacity to help the most vulnerable adapt. Partners for Resilience is represented by several colleagues:

Pablo Suarez ([suarez@climatecentre.org](mailto:suarez@climatecentre.org)), Julie Arrighi ([arrighi@climatecentre.org](mailto:arrighi@climatecentre.org)), Arame Tall ([atall@climatecentre.org](mailto:atall@climatecentre.org)) from the Climate Centre, Bruno Haghebaert from the Netherlands Red Cross ([bhaghebaert@redcross.nl](mailto:bhaghebaert@redcross.nl)) and Elle Fernandez from the Philippines Red Cross ([ellefernandez05@gmail.com](mailto:ellefernandez05@gmail.com)). Attached is the draft agenda for this annual meeting, if upon review you would like your country team to be networked to one of the presenters don't hesitate to contact one of the present colleagues. You can also connect to this event through live blog, video and twitter through the following [link](#).

#### **Annual PfR review and planning in the Philippines**



PfR partners in the Philippines gathered in the end of March to review the accomplishments of the last year and to plan for the months ahead. Partners concluded that 3 joined risk assessment tools were tried, tested and reviewed; a common lobby, communication and advocacy agenda started taking shape, and a process of signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding with several national government agencies has been initiated. Additionally, joint M&E elements were discussed and partners know where to find each other now.

#### **Indian PfR partners produced video on role of integrated water management.**

To support mainstreaming of the role of integrated management of water and wetlands in disaster risk reduction planning in Bihar, PfR-India has commissioned a film 'Jaltantra' for use in policy and advocacy. The film highlights the crucial role played by the network of rivers, floodplains and wetlands in securing livelihoods and reducing risk; their rapid degradation due to sectoral and structural approaches to water management; and options for revitalization of the water-wetlands network for securing livelihoods and reducing risks to communities living in Gangetic floodplains. The film was showcased in the learning cycle event of Cordaid, held during February 15–20, 2012 at Puri, Orissa and the resilience workshop in the Hague. Additionally PfR partner Cordaid in India, has been nominated by the National Disaster Management Authority to be the part of "Author group" to write a chapter on "Role of Community in disaster" in "National Policy on Community Based Disaster Management". This will be the national policy which will guide state governments to implement Disaster Management plans.