

# CARE INNOVATIONS



## Participatory Scenario Planning

### Multi-country

#### Themes

Adaptation decision-making,  
Humanitarian action, Livelihoods,  
Climate change, Agriculture

#### Partners

Community-based organizations, local  
NGOs, civil society, meteorological  
services, government and research  
institutions

#### Duration

January 2010 – June 2015

#### Impact group

Community members,  
municipality councils, national,  
regional and international  
decision-makers

#### Innovation stage

Scaling

**Context:** Climate variability and change is impacting Sub-Saharan Africa, with more extreme and unpredictable droughts, floods and storms. This adds another layer of difficulty for managing disaster risk and achieving secure, productive livelihoods among the most vulnerable people and threatens development gains. Adaptation to climate change is needed, informed by scientific and locally generated climate information. However access to such information is limited, and if available, is often presented in a form that is not understandable or useful for decision making by all who need it.

**Innovation Snapshot:** The Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) approach was developed by the Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP), a four country programme implemented in Ghana, Kenya, Niger and Mozambique from 2010 to 2015. ALP promotes a range of community based adaptation (CBA) approaches which strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable men and women. PSP, one of the CBA approaches, supports adaptation decision making through access, translation and dissemination of seasonal climate forecasts. A two day PSP workshop – held soon after national seasonal forecasts are released – is a local level multi-stakeholder forum, bringing together meteorologists, local forecasters, community representatives, government departments, research institutions, NGOs/CBOs and others to plan for a season. CARE's role is facilitating and creating linkages between the stakeholders. Collectively, stakeholders discuss and merge scientific and local forecasts resulting in a downscaled forecast for the local area. A review of the past season and current status of risk, food and livelihood security feeds into translation of the forecast into future scenarios and advisories for action. Advisories are disseminated through a range of channels and enable more informed seasonal decisions on local government sectorial plans, early warning systems, community adaptation action plans for livelihoods and risk reduction.

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## Challenges:

- Access to reliable climate information and meteorological services at the local level is a critical limitation.
- Understanding by meteorological services of users' needs so as to create user-driven climate information products.
- Communicating probability and uncertainty in understandable and usable forms.
- Short term (daily, 10-day and monthly) forecasts and past climate information are needed additions to improve accuracy.
- Ensuring PSP advisories reach all vulnerable groups, including women, nomadic pastoralists and those who have limited access to modern communication media.

**Evidence of Results:** Impact assessments in Kenya, Ghana and Niger demonstrate positive impacts from seasonal information. Farmers know when to plant, have diversified their seed and crop choices, moved livestock and assets away from flood prone areas, protect their environment and are now actively listening for and gaining trust in climate information. PSP multiplies impact by institutionalising climate communication at scale while giving voice to and supporting vulnerable people to adapt to climate change.

## Scaling and the Way Forward:

- By 2014 PSP has been mainstreamed in all 47 counties and nationally in Kenya and mainstreaming in Ghana is planned, by their respective ministries of agriculture working with the national meteorological services at local government level and with other NGOs.
- Through on demand training provided by ALP, PSP has been adopted and replicated in Ethiopia (PRIME programme with CARE Ethiopia), Malawi (Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC) and Enhancing Community Resilience project (ECRP, with CARE Malawi as a partner) and Tanzania (three CARE programmes including Pathways).
- IFAD has organized two learning routes in Kenya, bringing policy makers and government staff from Ethiopia, Rwanda, Lesotho and Sudan to listen to the PSP experience in Garissa, Kenya.
- Agrhyment in Niger are keen to adapt PSP to the local context, and CARE's BRACED programme will roll out PSP in a new region in Niger.
- In 2015 ALP will conduct a PSP training of trainers targeting committed and interested government and NGO practitioners from: Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Rwanda, Uganda as well as from South East Asia in response to PSP training requests.

## PSP and CBA Resources:

- Decision-making for climate resilient livelihoods and risk reduction: A Participatory Scenario Planning approach. [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/ALP\\_PSP\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/ALP_PSP_Brief.pdf)
- Facing Uncertainty: the value of climate information for adaptation, risk reduction and resilience in Africa: [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/Facing\\_Uncertainty\\_ALP\\_Climate\\_Communications\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/Facing_Uncertainty_ALP_Climate_Communications_Brief.pdf)
- Joto Afrika issue 12: Climate Communication for Adaptation: [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/JotoAfrika12\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/JotoAfrika12_FINAL.pdf)
- Community Based Adaptation: An empowering approach for climate resilient development and risk reduction: [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA\\_Brief\\_nov\\_13.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA_Brief_nov_13.pdf)

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