

WHY INCREASING RESILIENCE?



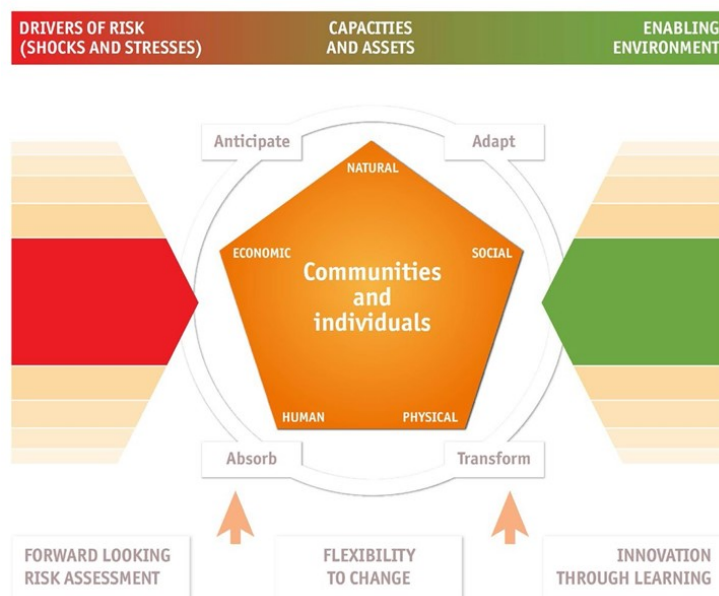
The world is becoming a more turbulent place, with more extreme and unpredictable impacts of a changing climate, more frequent natural hazards both large and small, and increased violent conflicts affecting more and more people. Both sudden shocks and slow onset changes and stresses further erode the livelihoods of people living in poverty, undoing development gains made in the past. Increasing resilience, therefore, has to be a core part of how CARE works everywhere, along with strengthening gender equality and promoting inclusive governance.

To overcome this, CARE aims to strengthen poor people's capacities to deal with shocks and stresses, manage risks, and transform their lives in response to new hazards and opportunities. Simultaneously, CARE seeks to address the underlying causes of vulnerability of different groups of people, and improve the social, economic and ecological systems and structures that support them. Building resilience goes beyond the ability to recover from shocks and includes addressing the context that makes people vulnerable. That is central to CARE's approach to increasing resilience.

CARE's APPROACH TO INCREASING RESILIENCE

CARE's Increasing Resilience framework (see below), outlined in the [Increasing Resilience Theoretical Guidance Document](#), guides our work to ensure all of CARE's programs and projects are risk-informed, and will support the increase of resilience of those who are affected or threatened by shocks and stresses.

Increasing resilience is an on-going process, not a final outcome that can be achieved within a specific time-frame. CARE's approach towards increasing resilience, developed through a consultative process and based on past CARE work, can be summarised as: **If the capacities and assets to deal with various shocks, stresses, uncertainty and change are built & supported, and if drivers of risk are reduced, and if these actions are supported by an enabling environment, then resilience is increased.** Change needs to take place and be sustained in all three domains to achieve this impact.



WHAT DOES CARE DO?

Community Based Adaptation: CARE has over 10 years of experience in Community Based Adaptation ([CBA](#)) programming across the world. CBA is fundamentally about empowering vulnerable communities and their local governments and service providers to understand and analyse how the climate is and will continue to impact their lives, take informed action on priority adaptation options, and constantly adjust their livelihood and risk management strategies in response to new and uncertain circumstances related to climate change. Bringing decisions under the control of those affected by climate change and avoiding predetermined solutions is the starting point for effective adaptation. Climate change impacts, as much as poverty and vulnerability, vary by locality. And within any locality, in turn, people's situations are diverse. So, doing climate change adaptation in a community-based way is about grounding the process in a good understanding of the local social make-up, and putting the decision-making power into the hands of those affected by the climatic changes. And this makes a significant difference: in Kenya, [research](#) showed that every dollar invested in Community Based Adaptation—getting communities, local authorities and climate information service providers together to jointly create climate change adaptation plans — resulted in nearly \$4 of losses avoided. Further examples can be found in [CARE's CBA good practice paper](#), [CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa \(ALP\)](#), and [CBA work in the Asia-Pacific region](#).

Integrated Risk Management: Through the [Partners for Resilience](#) program, which runs in 6 countries, we build the resilience of rural communities through an innovative integrated approach. Disaster risk reduction is applied in a way that looks not only at current and immediate (known) risks, but also at future risks (to which climate change is a defining factor). Furthermore, at a geographic scale, it looks beyond the community and applies a landscape approach, looking at the role of ecosystems not only related to disaster risk, but also for livelihood benefits. In Indonesia for example, Partners for Resilience has developed a base of practical experience implementing resilience-building activities in the province of Nusa Tenggara Timur. Now, CARE and the PfR partners are working with communities and governments to multiply impact by integrating good practice and experience in Integrated Risk Management into village, district and provincial development plans.

Local to global to local advocacy on climate and resilience: CARE has been actively engaging in advocacy and policy-influencing on climate change and disasters, at various levels. We have been [advocating](#) for ambitious international policy frameworks and mechanisms, in particular the Paris Agreement, to ensure they reduce the risks and help build adaptive capacity and resilience in particular for the poorest. CARE also engages in various national-level advocacy contexts (e.g. National Adaptation Plans, developed country policy matters), working with partner [networks in the global South](#) as well as bringing our own programme experience to the table, through convening stakeholders, engaging with governments, providing written submissions and reports, and active media work. Within CARE, we promote knowledge exchange, e.g. through the CARE climate [website](#) and email list, advocacy manual, webinars, etc.

SuPER approach: Our Sustainable, Productive, Equitable and Resilient approach to supporting communities and systems dependent on small-scale agriculture employs a range of methodologies, including community-based adaptation and farmer field and business schools ([FFBS](#)). We connect institutions and collectives for better governance, and we use market, technical and climate information to support farmer-led analysis, planning and risk management. CARE's approach to resilience in small-scale agriculture (such as in the Climate Smart Initiative ([CSI](#)) in Ethiopia) is based on four main strategies: 1) Informed by market, technical and climate information (including long-term climate projections and shorter-term weather information); 2) Employs analysis, planning and risk management strategies (particularly focusing on gender and power analysis); 3) Embedded in systems for disaster risk management and productive safety nets; and 4) Supported by learning, flexibility, diversity and innovation. In Mozambique, conservation agriculture has improved soil fertility and quality, reduced erosion, saved labor, and—combined with improved varieties—increased yields by up to 80% without intensive use of external inputs, with healthier soils, and making crops more resistant to flooding.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- **Address climate change and ecosystems degradation:** Sustained commitment to climate change adaptation and ecosystem management are critical for building resilience. The aggravating impact that climate change and degraded ecosystems have on frequency, intensity and unpredictability of disasters, are in particular felt by the most poor and marginalized. Building adaptive capacity and strengthening the natural environment to function as buffer and resource to recover from shocks and stresses is key to Resilience.
- **Adaptive capacity is central to building resilience:** This involves developing processes and capacities, which enable continued response to a changing and uncertain climate over time. A multi-level, cross-sectoral approach involving a range of different stakeholders is necessary to develop adaptive capacity and build long-term resilience.
- **Assessing differential vulnerability and capacity of different groups and individuals, particularly women and girls:** Differential vulnerability and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, along with local indigenous knowledge, must be taken into account when developing adaptation responses. Vulnerable groups and communities must play a central role in the planning and decision-making processes affecting their lives.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Community based adaptation is a cost-effective approach to developing adaptive capacity and building resilience, and adds new dimensions (understanding current and future impacts of climate change) to good development practice.
- **Increasing collaboration:** We need to intensify our knowledge exchange, strategy building and cooperation across local, national and global levels, to maximise both our advocacy impact and to multiply impact.
- **Connecting advocacy, well-documented programme experience and media:** our influence, in particular on the national and global levels, can be strengthened by closely connecting advocacy, evidence generation and media work, through an integrated approach.

Want more information? Further examples of CARE's work on increasing resilience can be found at www.careclimatechange.org, the Increasing Resilience [Theoretical Guidance Document](#), or contact [Wouter Bokdam](#) or [Aarjan Dixit](#).