

Project Brief

Enhancing Community Resilience and Inclusive Market Systems

OVERVIEW

CARE International in Zimbabwe working in partnership with LDS, LID and ICRISAT is implementing the Enhancing Community Resilience and Inclusive Market Systems (ECRIMS) project. The project is funded by the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund, ZRBF, designed as a multi donor fund in collaboration with UNDP and Ministry of Lands, Agriculture & Rural Resettlement. ECRIMS applies a system approach to resilience, building capacities and transforming inequity dynamics across all aspects of the system including household, community, relevant value chains and the enabling environment. Market systems are prioritised as the most relevant systems to the targeted communities, whose key livelihoods depend on crop and livestock markets.

What we Know

Resilience programming requires full commitment from the participants and the way it is implemented is equally if not more important than what is done. There is need for communities to realise the importance of leading independent livelihoods and realising the power within themselves to change their lives for the better. For example little savings, remittances or earnings combined with few livestock well managed can take them afar. Therefore resilience building is important as it helps to improve well-being of communities, so that communities will be able to bounce back better aftershocks and stresses.

What we are doing

Guided by the Project strategy, community-led, inclusive, participatory and contextual approaches are applied. The intention is to ensure 50% of the beneficiaries are women. (30% of which will be female headed households). 2 Model households per village (25% of these will be female headed households and 20% will be youth headed households) Model Households will pilot and demonstrate selected resilient approaches. There will be no free hand-outs. Resilience based research is a cornerstone approach of the project.

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Household and community capacities and assets built to withstand economic and climate related shocks and stresses

- Centered on improved household and community absorptive and adaptive capacities, incorporating analysis of specific youth and gender dynamics within the project context.
- Improved sustainable management of natural resources, technologies such as energy saving stoves, solar power options and improved community and household water storage technology will also specifically benefit women through reduced time spent collecting firewood and water. This will help to off-set the additional time spent by women in the community management and productive aspects of the project.



Outcome 2: Relevant value chains are profitable and able to withstand shocks and stresses

- Strengthening the resilience of the targeted value chains within the market systems. Sustainable and viable value chains are critical to building the transformative capacities of targeted communities and households.
- Specific attention will be paid to the gender analysis that will help to identify the current barriers to women's effective participation in market structures, such as contract farming arrangements, which tend to be dominated by male farmers.
- Relevant approaches will be determined to increase women's participation in the project value chains based on these findings.

Outcome 3: Improved responsiveness of market ecosystems to the needs of at risk communities

- Revive/ establish community development institutions and structures, ensuring women and youth participation
- Develop and roll out a gender sensitive community scorecard for improved service delivery

- Facilitate technical support from private sector on extension services
- Establish multiple contract farming and other value chain arrangements
- Capacity building of women and men farmers (including male and female youth) and other stakeholders in contract farming & other value chain arrangements
- Facilitate capacity building of market system governance structures to respond to the needs of women and men farmers and male and female youth.

Role of Model households

These are model resilient households who pilot all the resilience building activities being promoted under the ECRIMS project. Resilient Model Households' will be established in each community (3 per village) piloting and demonstrating the selected basket of resilient approaches. A sample of these households will be sentinel sites for monitoring and adapting approaches with the objective of moving towards resilient model households by the end of the project. The model households will be identified by the targeted communities as representing the 'typical' characteristics of a vulnerable B1/B2 household in that community.

Activities

The following are some of the selected activities;

- Context analysis (including market systems mapping) and stakeholder sensitisation & mobilisation
- Participatory community vulnerability and capacity analysis, structures established
- Community disaster management plans linked to district plans

- Assess response capacity and early warning systems
- Facilitate the development of community adaptation action plans (CAAPs)
- Households select value chains based on CAAP
- Facilitate seasonal participatory scenario planning workshops (ward level)
- Facilitate development of advisories and link to service providers
- Facilitate formation/revival of Village Savings & Lending (VSL) groups
- Link insurance service providers with communities
- Establish community water storage tanks with solar powered pumps
- Promote household water harvesting structures
- Establish and train Environmental Sub Committees
- Train households on sustainable harvesting, processing and marketing of non-forest timber products and link to off takers
- Establish demonstration bio gas digesters
- Rolling out of bio gas digesters
- Construction of wood saving stoves demonstration units & rolling out
- Promote use of biogas as cooking fuel
- Promote solar energy for household electrical needs