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CARE CBA18 REPORT – Arusha, Tanzania, May 6th to 9th, 2024

OVERVIEW

CBA18 was held between 6th and 9th of May in Arusha, Tanzania. This year's conference attracted more than 300 delegates from over 50 countries to come together and collectively discuss how locally-led and community-based adaptation can contribute to a climate resilient future.

CARE was represented by a delegation of 14 colleagues from CARE Tanzania, CARE Ethiopia, CARE Kenya, CARE Bangladesh, CARE Malawi, CARE Denmark, CARE UK, and CJC (see annex for full delegate list). CARE was active across the conference - from facilitating sessions including various parallel thematic, plenary, and open space sessions, to pitching innovative ideas in the Dragons Den, to hosting a marketplace stall promoting our youth leadership module. The conference was an opportunity to showcase various aspects of CARE's work on community-based approaches to climate action, allowed for networking with other practitioners, donors, government representatives, private sector, and academia, learning from and exchanging knowledge with others in the sector, and provided an opportunity to present CARE as both a thought leader in certain areas as well as a partner of choice.

This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by CARE at CBA18 and consolidation of key takeaways and learning from the different sessions relevant to CARE.

CARE ENGAGEMENT CBA18

CARE SESSIONS		
Type of sessions	Focus	Led by
Plenary	Operationalising the locally-led adaptation principles	CARE Malawi (Chikondi) with IIED, Uttaran, CADPI
Plenary	Co-creating local solutions for decolonising climate action	CARE Malawi (Chikondi) with IIED, Uttaran, CISON ECC Zambia & Malawi, FARNPAN, CADPI, MetaMeta
Parallel	Ensuring gender transformative locally led adaptation	CARE UK (Nicola) standing in for CARE France and CARE Vietnam With Save the Children, YWCA & GAYO
Parallel	Catalyzing private sector investments for climate adaptation	CARE Ethiopia (Neima, Sintayehu, Kidist) with IIED, MVIWAARUSHA, NTFP-EP, Climate KIC
Parallel	Linkages between locally led adaptation and local led anticipatory action	CARE Bangladesh (Ame) With the Red Cross Climate Centre
MarketPlace	Youth education toolkit	CJC (Marlene Achoki) with support from CARE Tanzania (Christina and Alfei)
Openspace	Early warning for all initiative - thinking locally-led and inclusive	CARE Bangladesh (Ame)
Openspace	Regenerating degraded rangelands through implementation of community led plans	CARE Ethiopia
Openspace	Marginalised women's voices in climate resilience and adaptation	CARE Kenya With Pokot Women Empowerment Organisation
Dragon's Den	Using the invasive species prosopis juliflora for climate change adaptation and women's empowerment	CARE Ethiopia - Sintayehu Tadesse

In addition to the formal and informal sessions outlined above, CARE had an active role in **the CBA18 Steering Group**, through Binh from CJC and Obed from CARE Denmark. Further, CARE Tanzania (Christina John and Alfei Maseke) participated in the **CBA18 Advisory Group**.

KEY TAKEAWAY AND LEARNING FOR CARE

A broad spectrum of topics and themes were discussed at CBA18, such as private sector engagement, indigenous knowledge, heatwave hacks, storytelling, eco-anxiety, and migration. The points below summarize the key takeaways and learning for CARE, from both the CARE-hosted sessions and the conference as a whole. This learning will be applied in our program design and further development of community based and locally led approaches to climate adaptation. It will also be used to shape our policy and advocacy positions in both national level policy processes like NAPs and NDCs, as well as global policy forums like UNFCCC Bonn intersessional and COP29 conference in Azerbaijan in November.

REFLECTIONS ON CBA18

The CARE delegation at CBA18 included people who were CBA veterans, as well as people attending for the first time. When requested to reflect on their personal experience at the conference, CARE delegates shared the following key impressions:

Diverse Perspectives: I was struck by the diversity of perspectives and experiences shared throughout the conference. From CBA18 climate-resilient agriculture initiatives in Asia, the sessions and discussions highlighted the complexity and richness of local responses to climate change. This diversity not only enriched my understanding of the challenges but also inspired creative solutions and collaborations.

Emphasis on Equity and Justice: A recurring theme throughout the conference was the need to prioritise locally led Adaptation in climate adaptation efforts. Many speakers and participants emphasised that the most vulnerable populations are often the most affected by climate change, and that adaptation strategies must be designed with their needs and rights in mind.

The Power of Community Engagement : The conference showcased numerous examples of successful community-based adaptation projects that demonstrated the power of engaging local communities in the design and implementation of climate adaptation strategies. These projects not only built resilience but also fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment among community members. This emphasis on community engagement reinforced the importance of participatory approaches in achieving locally led sustainable and effective adaptation outcomes.



KEY MESSAGES FROM CARE HOSTED SESSIONS

ON GENDER:

1. **Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Modern Technology:**
 - Combine indigenous knowledge with technology to address climate change.
 - Cascade indigenous knowledge to younger generations.
 - Preserve indigenous seeds for future planting seasons.
2. **Empowering Women and Strengthening Community Skills:**
 - Train women on resource ownership and control.
 - Provide skills for cultivating drought-tolerant crops like cassava and sunflower.
 - Ensure the involvement of women in all aspects of climate resilience and adaptation.
3. **Developing Sustainable Community Projects:**
 - Create community project priorities that suit local contexts.
 - Strengthen the beekeeping value chain.
 - Identify ready markets for local products.
 - Use knowledge to adapt to climate-smart models.

On anticipatory action:

1. Importance of co-creation of AA systems and triggers with communities:

Ensure that these processes are genuinely locally led and they are designed and delivered to meet the needs of vulnerable communities, drawing on their knowledge and experience and involving them in the relevant decision making.

2. Ensure intersectionality, representation and meaningful participation of diverse groups to shift power to the local level.

3. Facilitate diverse partnerships

On the private sector:

1. Private sector has a key role to play in LLA

Private sectors bring innovative technologies into locally led adaptation actions and create sustained access to services for local communities as opposed to time bounded donor programs. The major concern is to push for sustainability of private sector businesses.

2. Creating an enabling environment with incentives for private sector engagement

To engage /attract businesses in local climate action, there is need to advocate for enabling policies, incentives from government fostering equitable partnership and initiating participatory processes to address their needs and challenges.

3. Tailored finance options required

Linking local businesses' climate action to private sector investments involve providing tailored financing options to diverse range of entities (from community based to startups) which includes grants, loans, microfinance, and intermediary facilitation to effectively navigate complex funding schemes and access to financial resources.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND LEARNING FOR CARE

Understanding Locally Led Adaptation Principles

- 1. Familiarize Stakeholders:** Ensure all stakeholders understand the core principles of Locally Led Adaptation, emphasizing community ownership, participation, and empowerment.
- 2. Contextual Analysis:** Conduct a thorough analysis of the local context, including social, economic, and environmental factors, to tailor adaptation strategies to specific needs.
- 3. Devolve decision making:** Allowing people at the lowest level to make decisions in the context of their community.

Engaging Communities

1. **Community Consultations:** Engage with local communities from the outset to identify their priorities, knowledge, and capacities in addressing climate risks.
2. **Participatory Decision-Making:** Involve communities in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and respected throughout the adaptation planning and implementation phases.

Building Local Capacities

1. **Capacity Building:** Invest in building local capacities through training, skill development, and knowledge sharing to empower communities to lead adaptation efforts.
2. **Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitate exchanges between communities, experts, and practitioners to promote learning and innovation in adaptation practices.

Ensuring Equity and Inclusivity

1. **Equity Considerations:** Prioritize the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, ensuring that adaptation strategies are inclusive and address existing inequalities.
2. **Gender Mainstreaming:** Integrate gender considerations into adaptation planning to ensure the participation and empowerment of women and other marginalized groups.

Leveraging Partnerships

1. **Collaborative Partnerships:** Foster partnerships with local governments, NGOs, academia, and private sector entities to leverage resources, expertise, and networks in supporting locally led adaptation initiatives.
2. **Resource Mobilization:** Secure funding and resources to support community-led adaptation projects, ensuring financial sustainability and long-term impact.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. **Outcome Measurement:** Develop robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the progress and impact of locally led adaptation initiatives, using participatory methods to capture community perspectives.
2. **Adaptive Management:** Continuously review and adapt adaptation strategies based on feedback from communities and changing climate conditions to enhance effectiveness and resilience.

OFFICIAL CBA18 KEY MESSAGES

Key messages from CBA emerged over 6 themes- climate finance, LLA, tools and technology, private sector, NGOs and intermediaries, and indigenous knowledge reflecting the inspiring and impactful discussions which were had across the conference. The official CBA18 key messages are listed below.

Locally led adaptation (LLA)

- Only Locally led initiatives offer the depth of understanding of local dynamics and context needed for effective adaptation.
- Locally led adaptation needs to move from widespread endorsement to real implementation. This means meaningful change, led by LLA endorsers, of how resources are developed and delivered.
- Enablers of resilience are technological support, financial support, indigenous knowledge, justice, inclusivity, political will, Nature Based Solutions and decolonization. Colonialism, Capitalism and patriarchal tendencies may lead to the failure of LLA.
- Barriers and challenges to LLA include limited funding, exclusion of indigenous peoples, youth, grassroots in decision making. Locked in and systemic bureaucratic hurdles undermine LLA principles.
- Leverage local governments planning, budgeting and reporting structures as entry points for anchoring, mainstreaming and implementing LLA.
- Awareness raising about climate change is still needed, in languages and formats that people can understand and easily access.
- Funders need to invest in LLA – meeting all 8 principles with accompanying long-term research to study impacts, what works and what doesn't.
- Knowledge, generation, communication and dissemination needs to be inclusive to create space and democratic climate conversation.
- Adaptation has limits... we need to scale up mitigation to reduce the cost and expense of Loss and Damage

Indigenous knowledge

- Indigenous peoples need more opportunities to access funding and to be acknowledged in decision making so that their knowledge is recognized and acted upon.
- Indigenous knowledge has an intrinsic non-economic value, allowing sustainable use of nature and becoming resilient to drastic climate change impacts.
- LLA is failing the collective rights of indigenous people as recognized in multiple conventions. LLA must not create more bureaucracy: donors need to be closer to the community.
- LGAs need support to enable them to lead adaptation and to lead inclusive processes to identify adaptation. This includes being able to gather and use climate and indigenous knowledge to inform planning and adaptation action.

Finance:

- Efforts to build long term, viable, innovative and scalable models require the investment that allows for multiple iterations and continuous learning. Donors must allow sufficient time and flexibility
- Funding mechanisms need to be co-created by donors, intermediaries and local actors willing to change the system. Strict funding rules/policies hamper LLA. Include communities to ensure models can adapt to

different climate contexts and to enable them to monitor outcomes on their own terms.

- Monitoring and Reporting for climate finance should address the priorities of local communities – strengthening their work and their institutions. Adaptation projects should be accountable to the people they are intended for.
- Donor requirements to access climate finance remain too demanding, rigid, expensive and time consuming for grassroots organizations. Climate finance needs to be flexible and adjusted to context. Co-designing donor requirements with local communities to understand context/ability and create requirements that reflect each other's needs.
- Direct access to climate finance for local CSOs is necessary to enable them to lead adaptation.
- Domestic funding mechanisms should be established to ensure community owned local adaptation initiatives. Influence the government to integrate LLA into their plans and budgets. Capacity building to community to make their own investments

Tools and Technology

- GIS Mapping is a powerful tool for turning community knowledge into a public asset, mapping ecosystems, identifying risks such as forest fires and ensuring equal access to information
- Digital tools can facilitate inclusivity of knowledge dissemination. But they exclude those without internet, and are subject to misinformation, disinformation and misinterpretation. NGOs, government and community should invest in locally led co-created digital tools, methods and pathways at the outlets of LLA projects.
- Participatory approaches to gender and power analysis must include community and should be nonnegotiable minimum standards

NGOs

- Local NGOs with the ear of government can play interlocutor roles for communities – but a mechanism is required to ensure that what they are transmitting reflects community needs and priorities. Civil society must be accountable to the people they claim to represent.
- Local governments should engage in strategic partnerships and share decision making power with CSOs and communities, adopting a whole of society approach... but CSOs shouldn't take over their work that accountable governments can provide... they need to be legally mandated.
- NGOs and Intermediaries need to stay focused and avoid mission creeps! They should commit most of the funds to support and strengthen capacities of local governments and community systems to let them lead and make decisions for themselves

Private Sector

- Most groups agreed that we need to improve the role played by NGOs and civil society when engaging the private sector in CBA using LLA principles. Notably, convening market systems stakeholders and facilitating equitable dialogue, supporting local groups to improve their market access and voice, and persuading SMEs, gov and corporations to recognize and use environmental standards.
- The issue is that because the private sector tends to think in a more linear, short term and profit driven way, they do not naturally think about maladaptation – e.g. impacts on the landscape, biodiversity or medium to long term changes. In contrast many NGOs and development agencies prioritize these perspectives, and inclusion. They can act as watchdogs and call out issues – a safeguarding role.
- However, they also are under financial pressure and at times are also pressured to think short-term and deliver direct impacts. This raised a second issue – how to use grant funding without damaging markets! Also how to use it more effectively – to leverage (“crowd in”) private sector investment.

The role of NGOs in the private sector needs to be:

- Convening different kinds of stakeholders to plan strategically for how markets can support climate resilient development,
- Supporting cooperatives and community-led businesses to access the market
- Ensure that companies and governments work together to ensure that ecosystems are preserved and restored through private sector engagement (take a landscape approach), acting as a watchdog for environmental risk and safeguarding challenges

Non private sector actors can support the process of market development with short-, medium- and long-term impact assessments of market investments.

Funders need to offer strategic support to enable SMEs to contribute to the adaptation economy – scaling up successful pilots, strengthening their market linkages and supporting innovation.

NGOs and Government must be aware of the risks of grants for adaptation in newly emerging markets. They must help with supporting the most vulnerable to access the market but be aware of taking over what the private sector could do effectively.

The private sector brings innovation and sustained access to services for local communities, as opposed to time bounded donor programmes.

Research and develop more models that blend public and private finance with civil society roles as watchdogs and community representatives to enable restoration of landscapes, provide dividends to communities and crowd in private sector investment in adaptation.

Linking private sector investment into local business for climate action involves providing tailored financing options to a diverse range of entities, such as community enterprises, startups, SMEs, using a range of instruments such as grants, debt, microfinance. Intermediaries (NGOs and financial institutions) are needed to help broker and facilitate development of these complex mechanisms that should prioritize local market access and development.

Explore and clarify the roles of public and private sector and NGOs in each context, recognizing that they will all play a unique role, but they must work together.

ANNEX

CARE International CBA18 Delegation	
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Christina John	CARE Tanzania
Alfei Maseke	CARE Tanzania
Obed Koringo	CARE Denmark (Kenya based)
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