



Local communities are essential and powerful actors in responding to climate change challenges, reducing risks and ensuring development gains are not reversed.

Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) for Africa

The Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) for Africa: In Brief

The issue

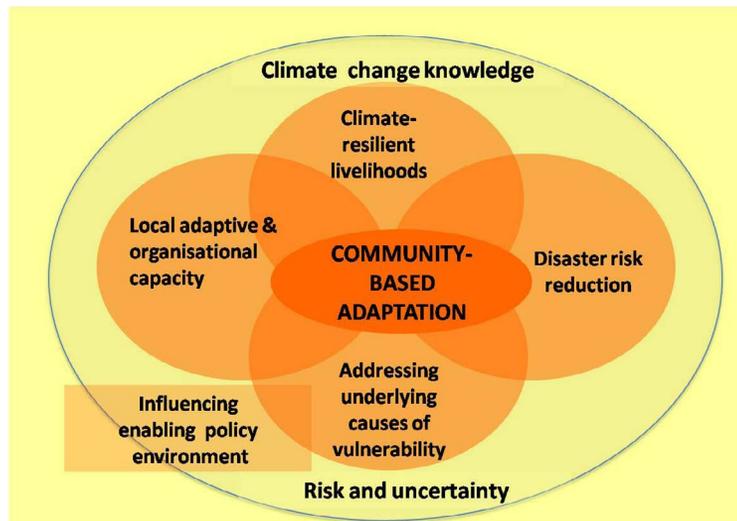
Increasing the capacity of vulnerable people in Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change is essential to sustainable development and future economic growth in Africa. Heavy reliance on the natural resource base means livelihoods in Africa are more sensitive to climate. Already prone to erratic rainfall, droughts, floods and cyclones, climate change will only increase the frequency and intensity of these climatic hazards, resulting in significant impacts on livelihoods. This in turn exacerbates the continent's existing development challenges concerning food and income security, poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and inequitable rights, with the greatest impact being on women and other marginalized groups. Communities also have knowledge, capacity and assets, which they are already using to spontaneously adapt. Poor rural women, in particular, are often the most vulnerable and the least included in decision-making, yet their voices and their different knowledge and capacity are vital to effective adaptation.

In response

CARE International launched the five-year Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) for Africa in 2010, implemented in Ghana, Niger, Mozambique and Kenya, in partnership with local civil society and government institutions. The programme seeks to identify successful approaches to **Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)** for vulnerable communities through working directly with 40 communities as well as learning with other organisations practising CBA, and support incorporation of these approaches into development policies and programmes in the four countries and their regions in Africa. In so doing, the capacity of vulnerable households in Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to climate variability and change will be increased.

ALP has five outputs, to:

- Develop and apply innovative approaches to CBA to generate lessons and good practice models;
- Strengthen the voice of local communities and civil society organisations in decision-making on adaptation;
- Promote good practice models for CBA among adaptation practitioners and in local development planning;
- Influence adaptation policies and plans at national, regional and international levels to respond to the differential vulnerability of poor and marginalised people, in particular rural women; and
- Support networks, disseminate results and learning globally.



CARE's CBA Framework recognizes four key elements are required for successful adaptation at community level, each of which is informed by climate information, risk and uncertainty and the national policy context.

ALP's Approach

ALP is using CARE International's framework for CBA, which provides a holistic analytical approach for communities to plan adaptation actions that are informed by climate science and local observation of climate change.

ALP enables rural communities in Africa to benefit from:

- Increased adaptive capacity for managing risks and uncertainties through improved access to information and sharing of climate and risk knowledge.



Niger men and women watering animals at the well.

- In Niger and Ghana, community monitors are using rain gauges to record weather to combine with seasonal forecasts and enable better predictions for the next seasons. In Kenya, meteorological services, local government and communities are sharing information and learning how to use both their scientific and local seasonal forecasts for participatory planning of climate change adaptation strategies.
- Participatory and gender sensitive analysis and planning which enables communities and their organisations to develop their own sustainable and equitable plans for tackling and adapting to climate change and ensures they are included in decision making through strengthening rights, voices, capacities, access and responsibilities of both vulnerable men and women. ALP uses a range of tools including the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) method to facilitate community and local government planning.
- Adoption of new and diversified agricultural and pastoralist practices that increase production and boost incomes. Farmers in Niger and Ghana are multiplying seeds to enable local access to early maturing and drought tolerant millet, cowpea, maize and soya crops.
- Better protection against extreme climate events, through disaster risk reduction plans, access to financial services and environmental actions. In Dakoro, Niger women are creating tree nurseries for environmental protection, and wind and fire breaks.
- Empowered civil society to represent the most vulnerable groups to have more say in local planning decisions and take concrete action in local, national and international planning and policy-making processes on adaptation. In Mozambique, Government and representative CSOs are coming together to have better preparations for negotiations in UNFCCC's COP process.

ALP is supported by:



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ALP Publications can be found at:

www.careclimatechange.org/adaptation-initiatives/alp

Highlights include:

- CBA for local empowerment and global influence: Methods and practice from the ALP - Paper presented at the Africa Adapt Symposium, March 2011
- Gender in ALP - Background note on ALP's approach to learning on gender equality and women's empowerment in CBA
- Communiqué from the Gender and CBA Learning Workshop Bolgatanga, Ghana, August 2011
- Jotoafrika Magazine: www.alin.or.ke/Joto%20Afrika, Special Issue No. 9, November 2011 - Integrating gender in CBA
- Community Stories:
 - » Empowered women lead on community-based adaptation to climate change - Ghana
 - » Others from Kenya and Niger
- Digital Photo Stories:
 - www.careclimatechange.org/videos/africaalp
 - » Changing Fortunes: The impact of drought on livelihood - Young men group, and others from Women and Elder Men groups

ALP has featured articles in the following publications:

- MECCA Newsletter: www.uneca.org/mecca/publications.html, Issue No.6, Vol. 1, September 2011
- PECCN Pages: www.careclimatechange.org/files/CARE_docs/PECCN_PAGES_Oct_2011.pdf, Issue No. 4, October 2011

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