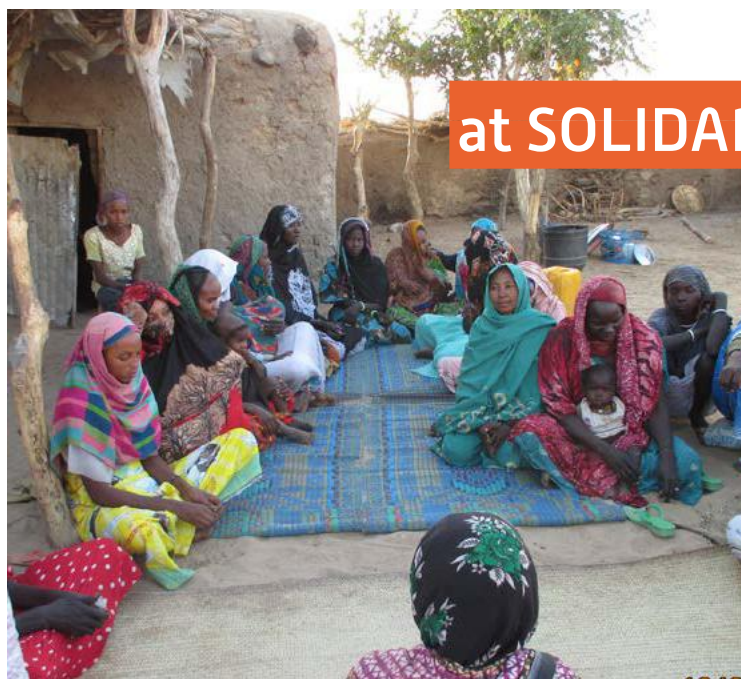




Community-based disaster risk reduction



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at SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL





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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBDRR	COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
CMDRR	COMMUNITY-MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
CVCA	CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ANALYSIS
EWS	EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS
DRR	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
EWS	EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS
NDMA	NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
RRAP	RISK REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

SI	SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL
UDMC	UNION DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
UzDMC	UPAZILA DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
VDC	VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WDMC	WARD DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Photos: Dany Egreteau, Axel Fassio, Cédric Fioekou, Hassan Hirsi, Julie Mayans, Prince Naymuzzaman Khan, Elisa Piat

Definitions

Disaster Risk Reduction: DRR aims to reduce the likelihood that a natural hazard will result in a disaster by implementing preventive (rather than reactive) measures. The activities implemented aim to limit the adverse effects of natural hazards, either by reducing the likelihood of a disaster occurring (using tools such as flood protection mechanisms, livelihood diversification, safe construction practices, etc.) or by strengthening a community's capacity to respond and cope with a disaster.

DRR is based on a thorough knowledge of hazards and how they affect social, economic, political and environmental vulnerabilities. By combining the analysis of this interaction with an understanding of a group's capacities to cope, it is possible to determine the level of risk faced by a group.

Risk = (hazard X vulnerability) / capacities

Risk is therefore the probability that a hazard/shock will have negative consequences (deaths, injuries, material losses, etc.), that it turns into a disaster. Disasters are not natural, they only occur when people are unprepared, do not have the capacity to cope with the risks (which can be caused by natural hazards).

The objectives of DRR are therefore:

- To improve community resilience and the capacity of the community to cope and bounce back;
- To address the underlying causes of vulnerability in order to protect development;
- To reduce and mitigate the risks associated with hazards;
- To close the gap between humanitarian response and development;
- To leverage existing risk reduction capacities and techniques in order to strengthen community preparedness.

Preparedness: Develop the knowledge and capacities of governments, response professionals and other reconstruction organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from likely, imminent or ongoing impacts.

Mitigation: Reduce or limit the negative impacts of hazards and disasters.

Prevention: Completely avoid the negative impact of hazards, and minimise the associated environmental, technological and biological disasters.

Resilience: Initially, the term referred to the elasticity of the material, flexibility or the ability to bounce back. For a population, it refers to the ability of individuals and communities to resist, cope with and recover from a disaster or conflict. An increase in resilience implies a decrease in vulnerability.

Vulnerability: The vulnerability of an individual, household or group is determined by the relationship between exposure to risk factors and their ability to cope with and overcome crisis situations in a sustainable manner.

Hazard (shocks, stress, seasonality): Threat or probability of a potentially dangerous event (drought, war, flood, political unrest, price inflation) at a given time and place, with impacts (reduced agricultural production, increased food prices, loss of livestock) on household livelihoods in the short, medium and long terms (and on food security).

Adaptive capacity: The ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extreme weather events) in order to reduce potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.

Early Warning Systems: The EWS is an important component of CBDRR. This system and associated procedures reinforce the preparedness capacities of a community and are integrated in the emergency plan of a community. EWS triggers the plan in case of a dangerous event. A good EWS reduces the loss of human lives and property, thus reducing the risk of this event becoming a disaster.

1. Introduction

A certain number of countries in which we intervene are increasingly affected by the effects of **climate change**. Not only do they face increasingly intense disasters or natural hazards more regularly, these countries are also rarely prepared to cope with the growing frequency and intensity of these types of risks. Vulnerable populations, those we are committed to supporting, are generally the most exposed and threatened by these risks.

The resilience of many of these populations is further **undermined by complex local, regional and global contexts** (environmental degradation, population growth, economic marginalisation, conflicts and other man-made threats, unplanned urbanisation, fragile markets, poor governance, etc.). Numerous families find themselves in a **spiral of poverty**, no longer having the necessary assets to bounce back from a hazard or disaster. They must then resort to **negative coping strategies** (sale of productive capital, overexploitation of natural resources, reduction in food intake, etc.) that hinder their resilience capacities and affect their food security.

To reduce the consequences of natural disasters affected the most vulnerable communities, and to strengthen the capacities of these communities to cope with these risks, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL integrates **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** in some of its projects, in particular through the **CBDRR (Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction) approach**.

CBDRR is a participatory approach aimed at **raising awareness among all community members about hazards and their frequency**. This approach also makes it possible to empower and encourage the full participation of communities in promoting their local development, with the support of existing administrative and traditional authorities. The principles underlying CBDRR are:

- the **inclusion of all social groups** in a community,
- community leadership of the process, and
- empowerment of all stakeholders.

This return of experience document summarises the four main stages of CBDRR by illustrating them with concrete examples of SI projects in Chad, Bangladesh and Kenya:

1. Community awareness and creation of community committees,
2. Participatory assessment of risks, vulnerabilities and capacities,
3. Design of community action plans,
4. Implementation of action plans.

CBDRR versus CMDRR

There are two participatory DRR strategies: *Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction* and *Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction*. The second approach follows the same objectives as the first but gives almost complete autonomy to the community. CBDRR, which is the most widely used at SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL and which ultimately encompasses all community management approaches, relies on external facilitation using participatory methods.

Marsabit County, Kenya



Duration: 24 months

Main objective: Strengthen drought preparedness mechanisms by promoting sustainable livelihoods in northern Marsabit County.

Main achievements:

- 10 communities trained on the assessment of disaster risks and on contingency plans, a total of 12,900 households
- 15 RRAP at the village level
- 15 micro-projects funded (1 per plan), especially related to water resources (rehabilitation or construction of infrastructures)
- Creation of 9 pasture conservation areas

Donors: EuropeAid

Budget: 1,320,000 €

Lac Fitri, Chad



Duration: 32 months

Main objective: Improve food security for households dependent on Fitri Lake and vulnerable to malnutrition and drought

Main achievements:

- 15 Village Development Committees (VDC)
- 15 RRAP
- Support to 11 cereal banks and 5 food banks
- Support to 10 farmer organisations for the implementation of income generating activities

Donors: EuropeAid (within a multisectoral response)

Satkhira & Teknaf, Bangladesh



Duration: 22 months

Main objective: Increase resilience and establish a culture of disaster risk reduction among communities and institutions vulnerable to natural disasters in urban and rural areas of Bangladesh.

Main achievements:

- 23 *Disaster Management Committees* activated
- 18 risk analyses carried out
- 18 RRAP
- 4 groups of farmers created
- 500 beneficiaries who received training on resilient agriculture via demonstration plots

Donors: DIPECHO (ECHO's disaster preparedness programme)

2. How to engage in CBDRR ?

STEP 1: PREPARATION AND RAISING AWARENESS WITH COMMUNITIES

CBDRR is launched once the communities in which we want to work have been selected. To decide where DRR, and by extension CBDRR, needs are the highest, a process of analysis and dialogue is necessary. The frequency of disasters and hazards, the knowledge of climate change and vulnerabilities, and the presence of important programmes and partners are key factors.

What must be done next is to develop a **common understanding and mutual appreciation of the objective and process** of CBDRR, as well as the roles that each stakeholder must play in the process.

This first phase includes the following steps:

1. **Presentation of the project** to communities and raising awareness about CBDRR;
2. **Identification of community leaders and representatives** who will be involved in the CBDRR process;
3. **Obtain the support** of stakeholders.

This work must be based on a **trusting, friendly and functional relationship**. The objective of this is to obtain the permission and commitment of the various community stakeholders identified beforehand to engage in a partnership with humanitarian actors..

This therefore implies:

- A courtesy visit to the formal and informal community leaders and representatives of the different stakeholders identified upstream;
- To introduce and present the organisation that humanitarian actors represent;
- To clarify the objectives of CBDRR and the roles of the community and humanitarian actors.

Entering the community means that humanitarian actors must immerse themselves in the life of the community. Immersion aims to: (a) better understand and appreciate living conditions, (b) build or strengthen trust between actors, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, (c) engage the interest and commitment of community members.

By recognising the role of **people outside the community as facilitators and people in the community as responsible for their development**, the potential leaders (both formal and informal) are identified among the different stakeholders, particularly the most vulnerable groups. Community members define for and by themselves their definition and criteria for selecting leaders, according to their vision for the community. This core group of people thus represents the rest of the community in the CBDRR process and ensures ongoing participation at the community level. Governmental authorities are also encouraged to participate in the initiative.

Bangladesh

Linking communities through an institutionalised process of risk and disaster management

For more than 10 years, several national ministries and policies in Bangladesh have been established to deal specifically with DRR. The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management oversees a set of committees that exist at the different administrative levels: district, Upazila and Union, but that do not go down to the last level of the wards.

The Standing Order on Disaster, renewed in 2017, details the roles and responsibilities of these committees, Ministries and other organisations working on DRR and emergency management. Many Upazila and Unions have already carried out a disaster risk analysis and have Risk Reduction Action Plans approved by local authorities.

SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL worked to link this institutional level with the community level by creating or strengthening Ward Disaster Management Committees, and by involving community volunteers in risk analysis and action plan design.





Kenya

Targeting communities most affected by drought

As part of the drought preparedness project, 15 communities were to be selected to be supported through the development of DRR plans and contingency plans (see page 12). The criteria were identified with the communities: absence of functional CBDRR committees, need to review an initial contingency plan (under a former project), communities that have suffered from drought and/or conflict in the past five years, or whose livelihoods are likely to be affected by drought.

Once the communities had been affected, forums (*bazara*) were organised to introduce them to the CBDRR approach. During these gatherings, attendees had to choose 20 community members to represent them through a committee. These members were to represent all the villages in the area, including women and youth.



Tchad

Village Development Committees to represent communities

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL organised information and awareness campaigns for the administrative and customary authorities and the populations of the villages concerned for one day per locality. At the end of these days, Village Development Committees were established at the village level to facilitate the CBDRR process, as were the Local Action Committees and Departmental Action Committees that support the Chadian government's national food and nutrition crisis prevention and management mechanism at the decentralised level.

STEP 2: PARTICIPATORY ANALYSIS OF RISKS, VULNERABILITIES AND CAPACITIES

This second phase aims to help community members better understand the disasters and climate risks they face, through an assessment of their exposure to hazards, vulnerabilities and the capacities of households, local organisations and institutions to manage and cope with these disasters and climate risks. To this end, community representatives (the core mentioned above) proceed to a series of 4 assessments and analyses:

- **Risk assessment:** to identify threats and understand their nature and characteristics,
- **Vulnerability assessment:** to identify the elements most at risk in the face of hazards,
- **Capacity assessment:** to identify the strengths and resources used by the community to cope, resist, prevent, prepare, mitigate or recover from a disaster,
- **Disaster risk analysis:** the combination of the three previous assessments.

SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL teams are there to **facilitate** the exercise and to allow the community to do this analysis, not to do it for them. Through this facilitation, community members must gradually build their own analysis of the situation..

A. RISK ASSESSMENT

- » Identification of risks: major risks such as conflicts, drought, human and animal diseases are identified.
- » Ranking the risks: based on a community consensus, each identified risk receives a score to determine the priority risks.
- » Characterisation of priority risks: the community analyses the risks identified and their consequences and effects on individuals and the community as a whole.

The following factors and aspects must be taken into account: cause/origin, prior warning, intensity, speed of appearance, manifestations and frequencies of warning signals, period of occurrence, duration.



Annex 1: Care field guide - Hazard mapping

Annex 2: Care field guide - Seasonal calendar

Annex 3: Care field guide - Historical timeline of hazards

B. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- » Identification of the types of vulnerabilities related to the hazard: social, economic, political, geographical, physical;
- » Identification of elements (human and non-human) at risk;
- » Identification and ranking of vulnerable groups within the community.



Annex 4: Care field guide - Vulnerability matrix

C. CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

Capacities are the combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community or a society that can reduce the level of risks of effects of a hazard. Capacities can be physical, social, institutional or economic means and personal or collective attributes such as leadership and management. Capacity addresses hazards (prevention, mitigation) and vulnerability (community preparedness, resilience).

The capacity assessment includes:

- » Identification of existing adaptive capacities,
- » Identification of the capacities that the community needs to strengthen its resilience,
- » Identification of capacity gaps.



Annex 5: Care field guide – Venn diagram

D. DISASTER RISK ANALYSIS

The aim is to analyse the results of the risk, vulnerability and capacity assessments, and to draw conclusions about the degree of disaster risk. This provides a basis for recommending appropriate disaster risk reduction measures.

In addition to workshops with community representatives, it may be necessary to conduct interviews or discussions with particularly vulnerable and not necessarily well represented groups in order to understand all community or household dynamics.



Kenya

A community action plan for drought

The various assessments led to a series of elements related to drought. Droughts in North Horr are indeed becoming more frequent and have disastrous consequences for livestock farmers in the region. It is becoming increasingly difficult for them to find pasture and water for their animals, which are their main source of income and protein (milk) for children. This situation is also a source of conflict for the different herding tribes. Following discussions and conclusions of the assessments with livestock groups, a table identifying weaknesses and recommendations was produced. This table was the basis for an action plan to reduce the risks identified.

Chad

Village Development Committees to prioritise actions

In the Batha region around Fitri Lake, Solidarités International used the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA – proposed by CARE) methodology as part of its project to improve drought risk preparedness and prevention in farming and pastoral communities. This methodology plans for the creation of Village Development Committees to play the role of interface between development partners (SI) and communities. These committees, composed of a President, a Secretary, 2 advisors and 2 inspectors, are created at the village level (contrary to other representative groups set up at the sub-preference level). In addition to collecting information at the national level (secondary data review) and from local authorities (secondary data review and key informant interviews), community assemblies were organised and facilitated by the VDC, agents of the National Rural Development Office and SI teams to provide information on hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities. The information is translated in actions and then prioritised by the communities concerned.



STEP 3: DESIGN AND VALIDATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

Once the disaster risk analysis is completed, the challenge is to **decide, as a community, what solutions can be implemented by households and collectively by the community**. This methodology allows:

- A better knowledge and systematic consideration of hazards in their daily activities,
- The identification and implementation of effective measures (by the populations themselves) to address them and reduce their negative impacts on the main production sectors.

These solutions are then compiled and formulated as **measures** to be implemented as part of an action plan or preparedness plan with assigned responsibilities and resources at the household and community levels. This documented plan can be linked to the local government's disaster risk management plan, in which case the local authority will be an important stakeholder in the process.

It is vital that the community take ownership of the analysis and the resulting action plan. To do this, they must be **communicated and left in the hands** of the community.

Development plan versus contingency plan

As we have seen, the information generated by the participatory disaster risk analysis and the levels of risks that result from it facilitate the elaboration of development and contingency plans. A development plan is a long-term plan that focuses on the underlying causes of vulnerabilities and aims to strengthen people's resilience to frequent risks. An emergency plan, or contingency plan, makes it possible to anticipate relief interventions until resilience capacities are reinforced. The extent to which communities can cope in the meantime depends on the establishment of functional early warning mechanisms, the feasibility of emergency plans and the ability of the mechanisms to activate these emergency plans as well as upstream preparedness actions.



Chad

The restitution and validation of propositions and planning of actions

Following the assessments and prioritisation of actions, SI teams then write Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP) for each community assessed, in conjunction with the VDCs. These plans are then presented and validated by each community during a two-day village assembly. They serve as reference documents focusing on community mitigation and preparedness to cope with potential hazards in the short, medium and long terms. They are composed of:

- A study of the environment and the hazards identified in the community,
- Disaster risk reduction measures and activities,
- Strategic axes of intervention (action plan),
- A system for monitoring and evaluating the activities implemented.

RRAPs are also presented to administrative and customary authorities.



Bangladesh

Action plans fed by the different administrative levels

The Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMC), headed by the Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC), were supported by Solidarités International to carry out risk assessments at the ward level (see page 7) and translate it into actions. UDMCs compile all the information received from the different wards in order to feed their own Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP), which previously did not take this very detailed local analysis into account. A meeting is then organised at the Union level to validate the RRAP and transfer it to the higher administrative level, the Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC).





Kenya

The presentation of the plans by CBDRR committees

The CBDRR committees set up (page 8) presented the content of the contingency plans during large *bazara*. The projects proposed were discussed and a priority project was selected for implementation in the framework of SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE's project. Following the discussions, the committees finalised the action plan with the help of SI teams. Copies of the documents are printed and distributed to the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the head of the sector in question, the sub-county administrator and the CBDRR committee.

STEP 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLANS

Once the plans are validated, community members decide which solutions can be supported by individual households and collectively according to their capacities, and those for which they must approach other development partners and local authorities to obtain their support. **The actors wishing to intervene in the area in terms of development and risk reduction must act in line with the RRAP**, since the proposed measures and activities have been identified as the most relevant and effective by the communities.

In addition to action and contingency plans, access to information and monitoring of alerts are key challenges for the communities supported under a DRR project. Indeed, isolated or marginalised communities will tend not to be reached by institutional communication levels. SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL will then be able, in parallel with the monitoring of the implementation of action or preparation plans, to support access to information and the integration of communities in **Early Warning Systems** (EWS) in order to avoid the interruption between the last institutional level and the community level. Integration in the EWS will allow the regular updating of action and preparation plans in addition to being triggers/thresholds on the different phases of the preparation plans.

For this phase of CBDRR? SI can play several roles, depending on the capacities identified for and by the community:

- Direct funding of certain parts of the plan,
- Direct implementation of micro-projects,
- Technical support to the implementation of micro-projects,
- Support for fundraising to finance micro-projects,
- Ensuring communication and visibility of the committees with the relevant local or national institutions.

For reasons of community ownership, it is clear that action plans and descriptions of measures must be formulated in the local language. However, in the context where SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL may have to finance some of the actions, it is important to translate all the documents in order to ensure their follow-up, and to integrate them in our project management tools.



Example of a plan – Annex 6: RRAP for Gorko village, Batha region, Chad *(in French)*

Example of micro-project – Annex 7: Rehabilitation of a pastoral well in Gorko *(in French)*





Chad

Implementing the RRAP via micro-projects

As part of the project, collaboration with VDCs and traditional authorities was systematically planned to prioritise and implement activities. This prioritisation was done according to criteria of relevance, ownership and feasibility. An activity considered non-priority and “poorly ranked” in the prioritisation matrix was not systematically unfunded, but this prioritisation exercise allowed local actors to understand and internalise this cardinal principle for a better execution of the plan. The micro-projects implemented responded well to needs: for instance, the training of phytosanitary agents and livestock agents responded to a major concern of local producers, with pest attacks being mentioned as a major hazard in all DRR localities, and epizootics being mentioned in a majority of them.

VDCs rose awareness and acted as intermediaries between partners, contractors and the population; they were in charge of monitoring the works and the activities.

Bangladesh

A logical sequence of interventions based on the plans

In Satkhira Upazila, one of the areas in which SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL first engaged in DRR in Bangladesh, the RRAP served as the basis of the mission's response strategy. The activities implemented during the subsequent projects were adapted according to the priority actions listed in the plans. For example, the Upazila RRAP had identified support for livelihood resilience as essential, particularly those related to agricultural activities. The next two years of the project focused, among other things, on improving agricultural practices (improved seeds and techniques, integrated agriculture, seed bank) and on the rehabilitation or construction of embankments via Cash for work.



Kenya

The implementation of action plans by the committees

SI teams coordinated with the committees to implement the priority projects selected on the basis of one per locality, after checking their feasibility. The projects selected ranged from the construction of ground-water reservoirs, the construction of wells, the extension of pipelines from a borehole, etc.

The committees were also prepared and encouraged to seek funds from the NDMA and other NGOs in order to finance projects that were not selected. The NDMA early warning mechanism reinforces traditional community EWS, and when signs of drought are reported, NDMA disburses emergency funds to enable communities to reduce the risk of drought-related disasters.



3. Conclusions and perspectives: what lessons learned?

The experiences of SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL mentioned in this document show us that the organisation has a full role to play in risk reduction in the areas in which it operates. The number of people affected by natural and human events continues to rise, and vulnerable communities are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with these phenomena. Global warming also greatly affects the livelihoods of millions of people around the world, whose lives and incomes are being destabilised and undermined.

The lessons we can learn from these experiences to improve or feed into future discussions are as follows:

THE MULTISECTORAL APPROACH

CBDRR is not an end in itself. It is a methodology that strongly engages communities so that their capacities to reduce disaster risks can be reinforced. SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL, by using the CBDRR approach, addresses other issues, such as food insecurity and fragile livelihoods. The latter are tributary to seasonal and/or spontaneous or recurrent disasters. The risk mitigation and prevention activities identified in the DRR action plans are often associated to SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL's areas of intervention, food security and WaSH in order to ensure the resilience of livelihoods.

THE REPRESENTATION OF COMMUNITIES

The establishment of committees is not compulsory in the CBDRR process, but they are very frequent because they are a means of permanently involving the community in the process and facilitating communication between the different community groups and the different actors. The constitution of these committees is a critical phase, as poor community representation would have a negative impact on the ownership and understanding of these plans, and would not ensure that the needs and issues faced by all groups and minorities within an area are taken into account.

KNOWLEDGE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Before starting any DRR project, it is necessary to have a good knowledge of the relevant legislation and existing bodies, especially those that can provide technical support, validate the plans and potentially finance actions. The integration of our action into the national and/or decentralised DRR landscape enables us to better identify gaps in the system, and thus justify the added value of our intervention.

In Bangladesh for instance, it appeared that the measures and structures planned for DRR did not extend down to the community level (wards). Together with the higher levels, SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL thus decided to work on the elaboration of these very localised plans at the wards level in order to fill this gap.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

Teams must ensure the technical feasibility of projects. In Chad, for example, the micro-projects identified in the RRAPs were mostly designed as actions to be implemented by NGOs and not by the communities themselves. A balance must be found between the needs and opportunities analysis on the one hand and the identification of technical sound and feasible solutions at a cost compatible with the budget allocated for each RRAP on the other. Committees, if in place, should be able to monitor micro-projects.

RELEVANCE OF THE COMMUNITY SCALE

The community or locality scale is not always appropriate for DRR, which sometimes requires reflection at the level of agro-ecological zones (e.g. in the case of firebreaks) or entire regions (e.g. shared use of resources and reduction of conflicts between farmers and herders).

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF THE PLANS

Ownership and understanding of CBDRR plans and issues are essential. It is important to ensure that they are well translated in the local language(s) and that they are short and concrete enough. Communication and facilitation of participatory processes play a crucial role in ensuring the effective mobilisation and engagement of communities. Committees should be trained in these techniques where appropriate. This is all the more vital as the process and disaster risk analysis are seen as complex and not materialising quickly enough by communities; the latter can quickly lose interest in it because action plans do not only address short-term problems. The role of the community must be then that of a partner in the design and implementation of projects, not that of a “victim” and beneficiary.

THE FINALISATION AND IDEAL CONTENT OF THE PLANS

Action plans developed as part of CBDRR activities must be validated and the measures prioritised according to the impact on risk exposure of communities. These measures must each be budgeted to facilitate fundraising by committees and/or communities, or to be integrated into higher-level plans.

In Bangladesh, for instance, funds are channelled to DRR by the government at the Upazila level. The Upazilas in which SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL operated were able to integrate some of the actions into their own plans and thus finance them.

THE TEMPORALITY OF CBDRR

CBDRR requires time to be implemented, including awareness raising, ownership and understanding of issues by communities, and the establishment of committees (transfer of skills, knowledge and responsibilities). A CBDRR project cannot therefore be implemented over too short a period of

time, less than a year for example. The teams have often been caught up by time and focused mainly on structuring and reinforcing committees, which is a cumbersome process, and less on changing behaviour at the household level. This shortfall can hinder the sustainability of the action.

EWS AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO DRR

EWS have an essential function for DRR at the community level. They are “central to limiting the loss of lives and livelihoods as a result of hazards and disasters”. They are monitoring mechanisms that result in the triggering of warnings to prevent and of interventions to mitigate shocks. They are based on 4 components: knowledge of risks, risk and vulnerability monitoring, identification of response capacities (pre-season mitigation measures or evacuation reflexes) and alert notices.

In Bangladesh, institutional EWS only descend to the last level planned by the law (UMDCs), not to the end user (the community: WDMC) as we have seen. Similarly, the messages and recommendations of this latter level are not necessarily raised to higher levels; this hinders the official communication of alerts. Yet, it should be noted that the propositions contained in RPs are structural (infrastructure) and not very organisational (capacity building and public awareness of EWS).

LINKS BETWEEN ASSESSMENT, ACTION PLAN AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The participatory risk, vulnerability and capacity analysis provides a link between DRR and humanitarian response. Being involved in DRR is an opportunity for a humanitarian actor to identify gaps, strengths and weaknesses at the local level in order to better prepare the humanitarian response or recovery following a shock/disaster.

TO GO FURTHER:

- » Action against Hunger International (2013) *Participatory risk, capacity & vulnerability analysis*.
- » Care International (2009) *Handbook on Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis*.
- » International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2008) *Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment toolbox*.
- » FAO and OCHA (2014) *Community-based Early Warning Systems: key practices for DRR implementers*.
- » DRR consultancy pack in Bangladesh 2018: documentary review of DRR in Bangladesh and strategy proposition (available on request to the Desk or DOAP)



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