



Food Security in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Newsletter for DIPECHO / ECHO DRR Food Security Partners

FAO and CARE co-host Regional DRR and FS/DRR Workshop

FAO and CARE joined hands in organizing the second DIPECHO/ECHO three-day regional workshop on “*Experience-based Disaster Risk Reduction in the Southeast Africa and Southwest Indian Ocean Region*” in Johannesburg, South Africa from 25 to 27 October 2011. The workshop aimed at collating lessons learned and best practices from the DIPECHO II and ECHO FS/DRR interventions, both in terms of the operations and implementation, to inform future programming, advocacy and resource mobilisation strategies. In attendance were 87 participants representing country implementing partners and governments from Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique, regional project partners (CARE, FAO, COOPI and UN-Habitat), UN agencies (WFP, OCHA, UNISDR regional office) and donor agencies (ECHO, OFDA).

Workshop deliberations focused on coordination, advocacy and monitoring and

evaluation. Day one focused on *consolidating recommendations for consideration in future interventions*, based on lessons from DIPECHO II and FS/DRR programmes. This was achieved through presentation of results from National and Regional Consultative Meetings, preliminary results of ECHO evaluation of the DIPECHO/ECHO project, and validation of the global recommendations in working groups.

Participants worked in groups according to area of expertise on day two, to share information on the documented ‘*best practices*’ that have been identified in different implementation contexts. Participants also had a chance to establish what activities/practices would be worth replicating and scaling up in future interventions.

On the final day, partners reviewed progress in implementing country and regional advocacy strategies, discussed future orientation, and agreed on *short- and long-term national and regional*



Workshop Participants, Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg

advocacy objectives. The session benefited from a panel discussion by donor agencies (USAID/OFDA and ECHO) and UNISDR, who provided insights on advocacy from a regional and donors’ perspective. The afternoon concluded with parallel sessions showcasing innovative ideas including COOPI’s Geo-information for DRR for South Eastern Africa; CLaSP’s DRR impact evaluation tool; and Malawi’s Advocacy Project; and a presentation on results of the Sustainability Seed Study commissioned by FAO.

See workshop highlights below and on page 2

Advocacy and Resource Mobilization: The Donor Perspective

During a panel discussion organized at the Regional DRR and FS/DRR Workshop, panellists Dr. Pedro Basabe from UNISDR, Harlan Hale from USAID/OFDA and Calum McLean from the ECHO Regional Office in Nairobi firmly established the importance of advocacy in influencing DRR resource mobilization and mainstreaming DRR into the development agenda at sectoral and national policy levels. Key considerations for updating and strengthening the country and regional advocacy strategies, identified from the panel discussion include the need to:

- Define DRR and distinguish it from development with practical examples and evidence from pilot projects,
- Identify additional competencies and strategic partners with comparative advantage for effective advocacy,
- Increase community awareness to create a demand for DRR services delivery,
- Utilise Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) related opportunities such as the forthcoming COP 17 meetings to pass advocacy messages to key actors,
- Incorporate DRR learning into the school curriculum and facilitate training of journalists to report better on DRR issues,
- DRR actors should provide tools/instruments to help national institutions to apply the learning that is generated.

DRR and FS Interventions: A Look at Where We Stand

To date, 14 country-level DRR and 7 FS/DRR pilot projects have been implemented in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. A total of seven thematic areas of best practices have been identified, documented and shared for replication and up scaling in DIPECHO III. These include the following:

- **Local capacity building in DRR** - Training and involvement of local and traditional leaders in participatory approaches of defining vulnerability to hazards, development and implementation of activities,
- **Agricultural diversification** – Linkages with research institutions, community-based seed systems, the use of lead farmers, sensitization of communities on the new crops and use of familiar and nutritious species, were key to success,
- **DRR communication and awareness raising** – Production of materials for training and/or advocacy by DIPECHO partner other stakeholders,
- **Short cycle seeds** – Featured high in all participating countries, however, establishment of a seed market with quality certification, seed bank and storage systems remain issues to be addressed in future,
- **Integrated management of DRR Food security and climate change adaptation/mitigation** - Factors that support replication include adaptability of inputs to different types of threats, agro-ecological systems approach, communities learning from each other and linking activities to existing legal frameworks for environmental management,
- **Community participation and leadership in DRR** – Strengthening governance and transfer of knowledge and skills to communities is critical for sustainability,
- **DRR infrastructure (hazard resistant housing/shelters and improved water points)** – Architectural models for different hazards, use of local knowledge-based techniques, income generation for communities to sustainably manage the infrastructure, and development of building manuals.

Partners Endorse Recommendations for Future Programming

In order to *improve the planning, proposal development, implementation, coordination and institutional relationships*, the following global recommendations for future programming in DRR and FS-DRR were generated:

- Develop a common regional and national results framework in a mutually reinforcing and iterative bottom-up, top-down approach,
- Establish a strategic focus and identify needs and thematic areas to be addressed in DIPECHO III using lessons learned from DIPECHO I and II and other existing national data,
- Strengthen national coordination by involving government from the start and formalizing relationships among partners (MOUs or contracts),
- Consider establishing a regional project consortium with national secretariats for effective coordination,
- Strengthen community project management mechanism for sustainability and ensure that exit strategies are planned well in advance before the end of funding cycle,
- Implementing organizations should develop advocacy and resource mobilization strategies targeting other donors beyond ECHO for sustainability purposes,
- ECHO should provide guidance on how to bridge the period between funding phases to ensure continuity of activities, as well as being an advocate to the EU and other possible donors.

In addition to the documented best practices, a publication on *“Building Community Resilience to Climatic Disasters: Community Experiences of Saving Lives and Livelihoods”* highlighting Human Interest Stories, has been developed.



“Working groups were critical to the workshop’s objective. Here, participants discuss the early maturing seeds as a best practice”

Upcoming Meetings

National Consultation Meeting for Malawi, December 6-7 2011.

DIPECHO III planning meetings are ongoing. Contact the Country ECHO FS Project Coordinators (FAO) for dates and details:

Madagascar (FAO)

Hanitra Randrianarivelo

Hanitra.Randrianarivelo@fao.org

Malawi (FAO)

Samson Kankhande

Samson.Kankhande@fao.org

Mozambique (FAO)

Jose da Graca

Jose.Dagraca@fao.org

ECHO FS/DRR Regional Coordinator (FAO REOSA)

Erin OBrien

Erin.OBrien@fao.org

About this Newsletter

This monthly newsletter aims to share information on activities, lessons learnt and information of interest to ECHO/DIPHECO project partners and stakeholders.

FS/DRR Southern Africa Partners Website

This newsletter can be accessed on the partners website as well as more information on the projects. Visit:

www.disasterriskreduction.net_southern_africa

For more Information please contact:

FAO Regional Emergency Office for Southern Africa (REOSA)

Tel: +27 (0)11 517 1500

Email: FAO-REOSA@fao.org