LWR & CLIMATE

Supporting Community Adaptation & Mitigation

BACKGROUND: THE CHALLENGE OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

More frequent and severe weather events. Extreme rainfall: either too much, or not enough. All are signs of a changing climate that disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized communities.[1] Changing climates are impacting livelihoods, threatening food and water security, and creating risks for millions of poor people.[2] Changes in rainfall, temperature, and seasons threaten agricultural production and even shift suitable growing areas for key crops. At the same time that agriculture is deeply affected by changing climates, agricultural practices such as land clearance, the use of chemical fertilizers, and others are themselves major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

[1] *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC_WG2AR5_SPM_Approved.pdf*

[2] *Climate and Disaster Resilience: The Role for Community-Driven Development. Margaret Arnold, Robin Mearns, Kaori Oshima, and Vivek Prasad, 2014. The World Bank. Accessed on: https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/gfdrr.org/files/publication/ClimateandDisasterResilience.pdf*

LWR'S APPROACH: ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

Lutheran World Relief fosters community mitigation of and adaptation to changing climates to secure livelihoods and landscapes as a means to improve the lives of rural communities experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. LWR believes that helping communities be better prepared for natural disasters, as well as embrace innovative climate smart agriculture practices, are key elements in building resilient communities and strong local economies. LWR takes a systems approach to engage a range of stakeholders in program design and implementation, and strengthens civil society so that local organizations are prepared for and able to respond to the effects of climate change.

LWR employs four core and emerging program approaches in its climate work, to design and implement integrated programs that help rural communities respond within their local context.

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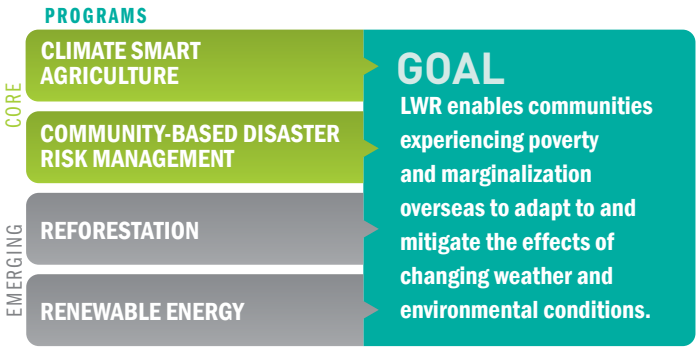

CORE PROGRAM AREA: CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

LWR's Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach focuses on protecting smallholder farmer agricultural assets in the face of changing climates and environmental degradation, through climate change adaptation and mitigation actions- focused on conservation agriculture and sustainable land management approaches. CSA addresses various components of a sustainable production system, including environmentally friendly cropping practices (such as agro-forestry models, crop diversification), access to improved inputs (drought-tolerant seed varieties), soil conservation and nutrient management, and sustainable water access and use, to foster resilient ecosystems and resources.[3]

CORE PROGRAM AREA: COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

LWR is committed to building communities' resilience in the face of natural hazards like floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention to ensure that communities are strengthened against future disasters. LWR prioritizes Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to harness local capacities and resources to reduce underlying risk factors, increase community awareness of hazards, and build a culture of safety and resilience.[4] LWR's programs address the distinct vulnerabilities of women, youth, elderly and the disabled, and work closely with government agencies, as well as local community systems, structures and organizations, to sustain these initiatives. LWR supports community risk mapping, early warning systems, evacuation route identification and signage, construction of infrastructure, training, and much more.

EMERGING PROGRAM AREA: RENEWABLE ENERGY

LWR promotes sustainable solutions to growing energy needs and scales-up successful pilot experiences in renewable energy — including wind, solar, micro-hydropower — for greater impact and cost-effectiveness. LWR's programs promote the development of renewable energy technologies and enhance demand for these technologies, train communities in system operation, and document the impact of renewable energy on communities' health, well-being and the environment.

EMERGING PROGRAM AREA: REFORESTATION

LWR protects communities' natural assets from degradation through replanted, revitalized and well-managed forests. LWR promotes the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable utilization of forests and related land resources in partnership with local governments and civil society organizations. Reforestation programs support capacity of community-based groups to provide leadership and awareness on forest management, environmental education in the classroom, alternative economic development opportunities for populations who depend on forests for their livelihoods, and promote the sustainable harvesting of forest products. In the longer-term, LWR seeks to strengthen community participation in national frameworks and policy debate.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: INDONESIA

LWR's coastal resilience programming exemplifies the organization's holistic approach to climate programming combining reforestation, community-based disaster risk reduction, and a livelihoods approach to build community and natural resilience. In Indonesia, LWR is reducing the vulnerability of more than 8,600 people in Aceh by rehabilitating more than 400 hectares of forest area and planting more than 1 million mangrove seedlings and hinterland trees to reduce erosion from the upland areas and protect coastal landscapes from the impact of typhoons. Local communities are engaged in natural resource management and alternative livelihood opportunities. With LWR's support, target communities have also developed and are implementing disaster risk reduction and management plans; LWR's investments in local capacity development ensure the sustainability of these efforts.

[3] *Climate Smart Agriculture, as defined by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, is: "agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (GHGs), and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals". FAO, 2010*

[4] *http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/CBDRM/Default.asp*