Integrating Adaptation into Local Planning in Ghana



Experiences from Community
Land Use Responses to Climate
Change project

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Funded by CIDA and CARE
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Development Planning process in Ghana

- Development of national level development framework every four years guided by policy direction of ruling government
- District level plans informed by national level framework
- Weak link between district level plans and national level framework
- Even though Ghana is on course to achieve MDG 1 halving poverty by 2015, there are wide disparities between region and different segments of society



What is the project trying to do?

Three key elements:

- Identify the most vulnerable groups within communities
- Empower them to engage in local planning processes
- Build capacity of local stakeholders to integrate climate change adaptation into planning



Why

- Plans at district and national level do not reflect priorities of vulnerable
 - weak capacity of Stakeholders; govt and NGO, poor and vulnerable to articulate issues
 - Preference of politicians for infrastructure development
 - National level prioritization too restrictive, guidelines do not allow flexibility at district and community level
 - No mechanism for holding local government leaders accountable

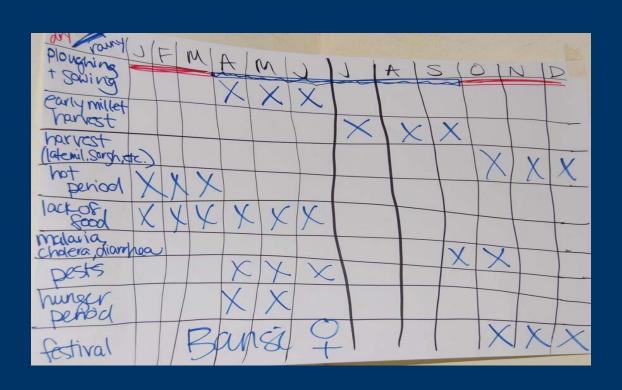


Purpose

- The purpose of the Community Action
 Planning process is to empower communities and vulnerable groups, in a participatory way and within the planning process of the District Assembly, to plan and initiate strategies that will enhance their resilience to climate change.
- The process has benefitted from using CARE's CVCA tool (Hazard Mapping, Seasonal Calendar, Historical Timeline, Vulnerability Matrix)

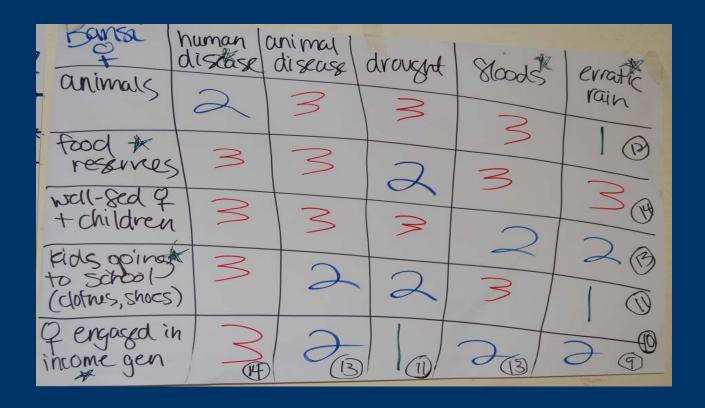


Seasonal Calendar





Vulnerability matrix





Underlying principles

- Community-driven devt (CDD) approach which puts communities at the centre and build their capacity to manage their devt plans.
- Increase the capacity of sub-district structures to support the development process.
- Strengthen the interface between communities and their local governments.
- Use an appreciative approach that builds on existing resources and strengths.
- o Encourage innovation and use of indigenous knowledge.
- Contribute to the sustainability of the environment



Key strategies of integrating CBA into District and National level planning

- Lobbying for the inclusion of adaptation issues into national level planning priorities and frame work
- Composition of facilitating teams should include the district planning officers and other key local government personnel
- Facilitators trained on:
 - o Priorities of the district assemblies
 - o the use of the frame work that fits the district level plans
 - o Tools that ensure effective participation of the vulnerable



Community planning process

- Community situational analysis to identify community resources
- Community vulnerability analysis by identifying the various hazards (floods, drought, diseases, erratic rain fall, and how various groups respond in the event of such hazards.
- Those most affected by the hazards are identified included poor women, female headed households, Persons With Disability, aged, settlers, youth etc.
- Planning done with each of these focus groups
 - Visioning and agreeing on key issues; i.e. developing visions, goals and strategies
 - Action planning
 - o Compilation
 - o Validation















Thank You for Your Attention

