

Gender and Adaptation to Climate Change



Gender responsive climate change adaptation
practices: examples and lessons ~~learnt~~ observed

How does CARE understand adaptation?

- A **process** of reducing vulnerability to current and projected climate risks
- Combines **local knowledge** and scientific climate data to identify appropriate actions
- Empowers people to secure their **rights** and **livelihoods**
- Local and national **institutions** play a critical role



CARE's approach to Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)

CARE sees CBA as a process involving four interrelated components:

- The promotion of climate-resilient **livelihood** strategies, including capacity building for planning and improved risk management
- **Disaster risk reduction**
- **Capacity strengthening** of local civil society and government institutions so that they can provide better support to communities, households and individuals in their adaptation efforts
- Advocacy and social mobilization to address the **underlying causes of vulnerability**, such as gender-based inequality and poor governance



CARE's approach to gender

Gender equality

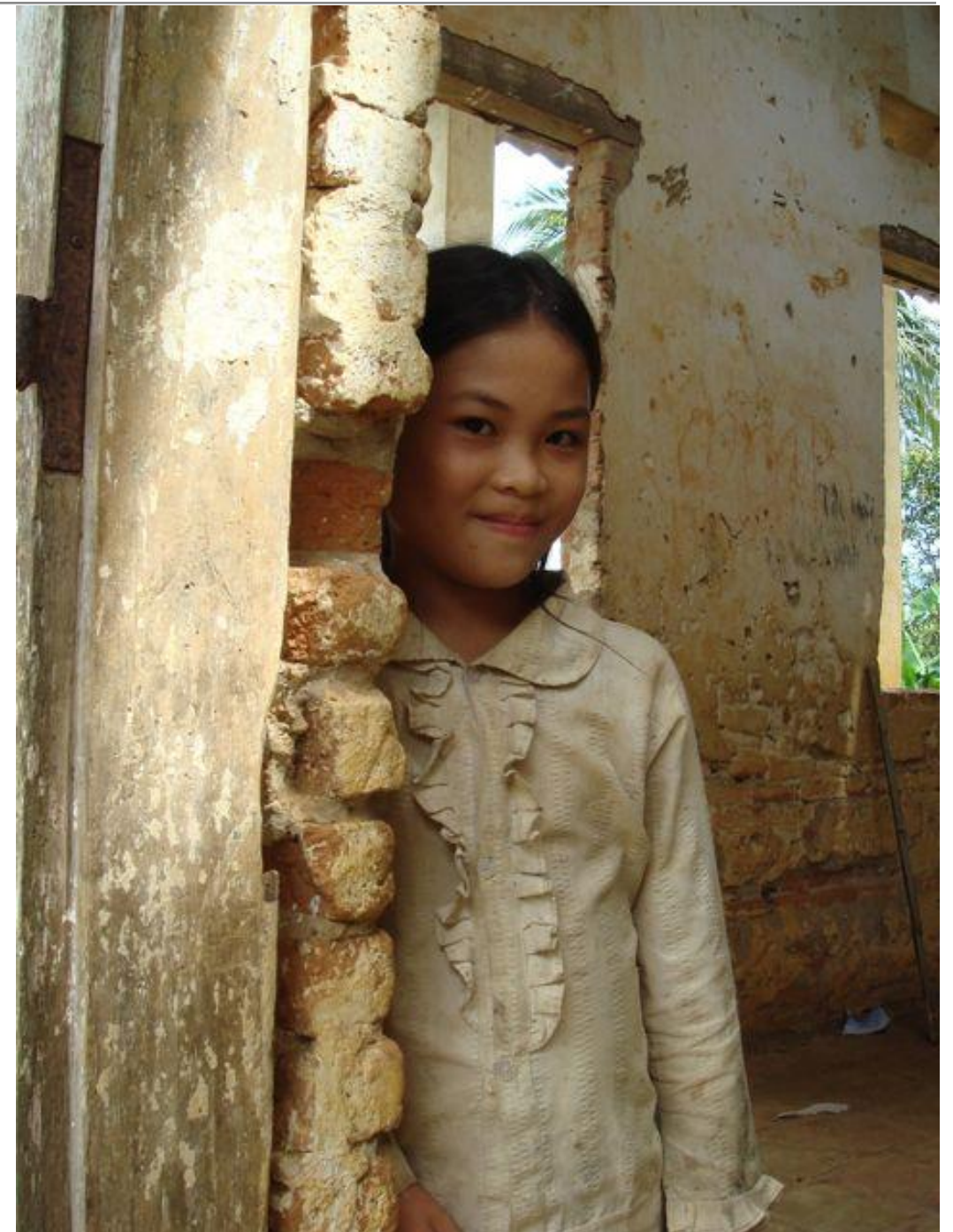
- equal rights, opportunities, resources and rewards
- not governed by whether an individual is born male or female

Gender equity

- recognition of unequal power relations
- distributional justice

Women's empowerment

- awareness-raising, building of self-confidence, expansion of choices, increased access to and control over resources; actions to transform structures
- Empowerment from within; women empower themselves



CARE's approach to gender

1) „Twin-track“ approach

- Gender Policy
- Women's empowerment framework
- Programme shift („p-shift“)
- CARE International Gender Network (CIGN)
- Gender toolkit

2) Rights-based approach



Rationale for gender & climate change

A continuum of reasons...

a goal in its own right

effective, efficient and sustainable
vulnerability reduction

“smart economics”

Gender in climate change policy and programming

‘Instrumental’

Rights based

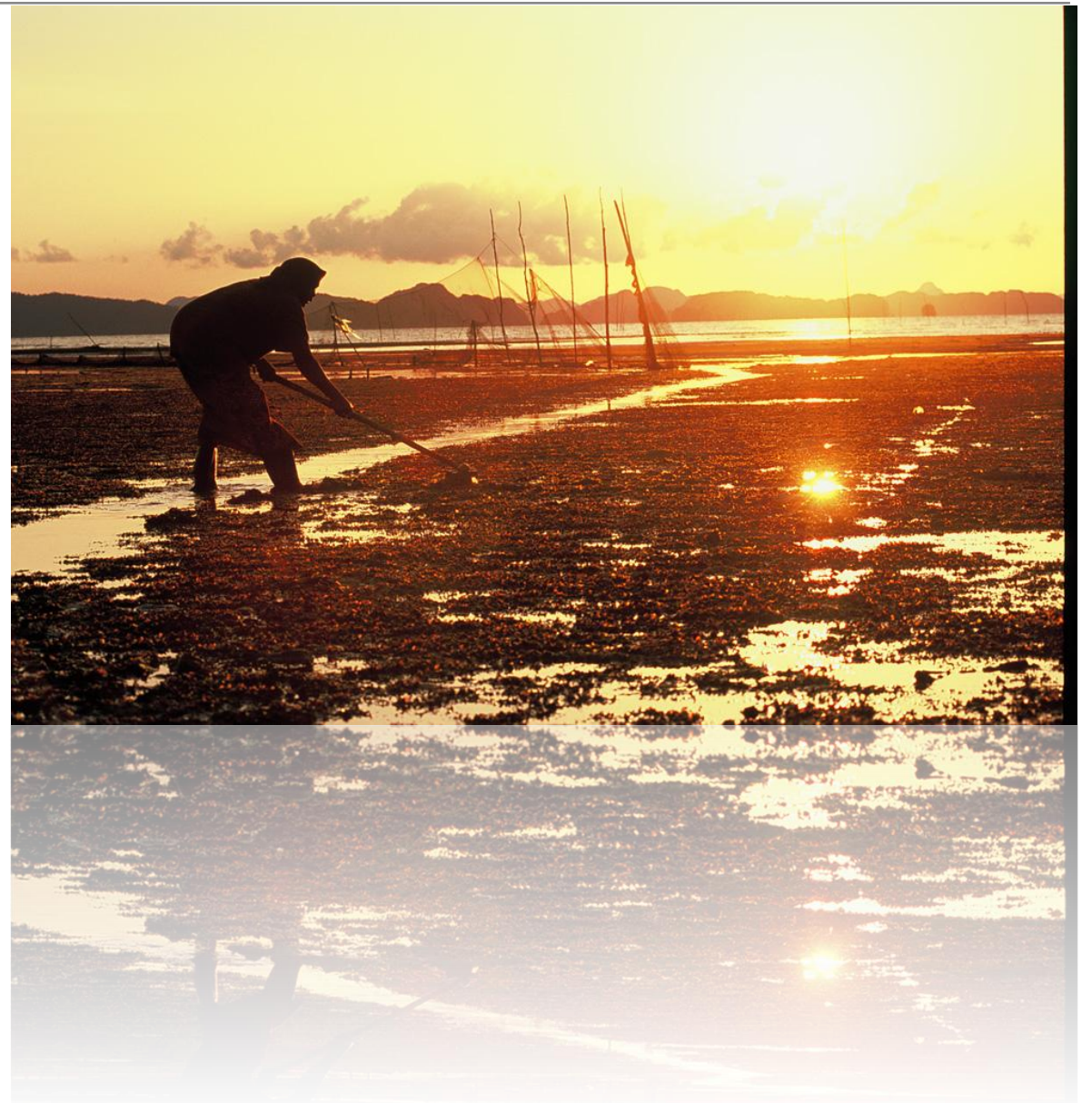
How is CARE addressing gender inequality in adaptation?

- Supporting **women and men** to access the resources, rights and opportunities they need for adaptation
- Promoting gender in **policy and programming** as a long-term goal
- **Empowering vulnerable women** to build their adaptive capacity



What does this look like in practice?

- **Strategic Impact Inquiry** on gender and women's empowerment
- Planning adaptation based on participatory, **gendered analysis of vulnerability**
- Designing, implementing and monitoring adaptation initiatives with the **participation** of both women and men
- Identifying **specific** adaptation strategies for women and men
- Incorporating **gender-transformative activities**
- Promoting gender-equitable adaptation **policies and programmes**



Example: CBA in Bangladesh

- Salinity intrusion
- Gender analysis and inquiry
- Identification of women's concerns at the outset
- Address the barriers they face in political participation
- Resulted in an advocacy campaign to take action on water salinity that was harming local agriculture
- Public outreach affected more than 1 million people



Example: Livelihood Security in Bangladesh

- Extreme seasonal flooding
- Gender analysis
- Community solidarity approach
- Addressed livelihoods security and power issues
- Women reported more confidence to speak out in public and negotiate with husbands on household decisions
- Increased participation by women in community organizations



Example: Community Forestry in Indonesia

- Gender analysis showed barriers to women's participation in new livelihoods activities
- Gender roles in agroforestry systems examined and challenged
- Capacity development for village and district institutions, women encouraged to take on leadership roles



Example: Food Security in Tajikistan

- Gender analysis indicated opportunity of engaging women to support HH food security
- Women constructed simple greenhouses, and received training and inputs
- Growing season effectively extended



Example: Coastal DRR in Thailand

- More frequent extreme weather events
- Vulnerability analysis highlighted different barriers to women and men's participation in CBDRR
- Steps taken to address barriers: timing, duration, child care...
- Community groups with active participation of both men and women are more successful in engaging with local government stakeholders



Example: Water in Cambodia (Christian Aid)

- Worsening water shortages caused by drought and unpredictable floods
- Overcoming gender barriers to participation
- Women's leadership in income generation and community mobilization
- **MOVIE:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwJ5szC7Xu4>

video used with courtesy to Christian Aid



Lessons observed

- Differential vulnerability analysis, including gender, is an essential starting point:
- Identify appropriate entry points
- Resist stereotypes
- Recognize opportunity
- Avoid overburdening women
- Don't forget about the men



Lessons observed

- Conflict and tensions need to be managed and not stifled.
- Creating platforms and spaces for women's leadership to emerge is crucial
- Progress in one area is usually insufficient for a woman to fully realize her rights and aspirations
- Engage staff in gender and empowerment initiatives.
- Long-term commitments require long-term funding



More information: www.careclimatechange.org



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The Human Face of Climate Change

Photo: Andre Farthome

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Quick Web Links:

- Our Global Response
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STORIES

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

-  Adaptation in action - stories
-  Ethiopian pastoralists and drought
-  Managing Our Mangroves - video

PUBLICATIONS

FOR GLOBAL ACTION

-  Realising Rights, Protecting Forests
-  Social assessment of conservation initiatives
-  Waiting for the water to come
-  CVCA in French

EVENTS

TO INFORM & INSPIRE

NEW! - REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards

Overview: Bonn Climate Talks

 Blog: People's World Conference

WWW.CAREINTERNATIONAL.ORG

EMPOWERMENT FOR LOCAL ACTION. KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE.