



Integrated Community-based Adaptation in the Mekong Delta (ICAM)

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEKONG DELTA Vietnam is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. Increasingly erratic conditions pose new challenges for the majority of the 17 million residents of the Mekong Delta, who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. The ability to adapt to climate change is therefore essential for both the survival and development of these communities.

Through ICAM, CARE works with women and men who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, to increase the resilience of communities in the Mekong Delta.

KEY OUTCOMES



Communities and local authorities plan for community-based climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Community plans then inform government socio-economic development and sectoral planning, within sectors such as disaster risk reduction, agriculture, and health.



Communities, especially those most at risk from the impacts of climate change, have improved resilience: their livelihoods are more robust and diversified; and they are more aware of climate change, its impacts, and what to do about it.



Project learnings, a strengthened civil society, and capacity of authorities, provide a foundation for the scale-up of community-based, equitable, and gender-sensitive adaptation.

Participants

Over 3,000 women and 2,000 men living in poverty, and who are at risk from the impacts of climate change: particularly women, the land-poor, and the landless.

Locations



Vietnam:
33 villages in 5 communes in An Giang and Soc Trang provinces, in the Mekong Delta

Partners

- » Vietnam Women's Union
- » Centre for Rural Communities Research and Development

Timeframe and Budget

July 2012 - December 2015
Approx. US\$3 million

Donor

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

KEY OUTPUTS 2012-2015

1,283+
WOMEN AND
MEN

have worked together to develop village-level gender-sensitive adaptation plans, which have been integrated into district-level government planning.

12,468+
PEOPLE*

have benefitted from gender-sensitive and climate-smart disaster risk reduction activities, such as: swimming lessons; search and rescue trainings; and the construction of 'green dykes', which prevent erosion.

152+
HOUSEHOLDS

have tested the viability of various climate resilient livelihood options, including indoor organic mushroom growing, and bio-bedding and manure management for chickens and pigs.

180+
HOUSEHOLDS

have gained increased access to credit for climate-resilient livelihood diversification, from a customised and flexible Women's Union-run microfinance system.

44
ORGANISATIONS

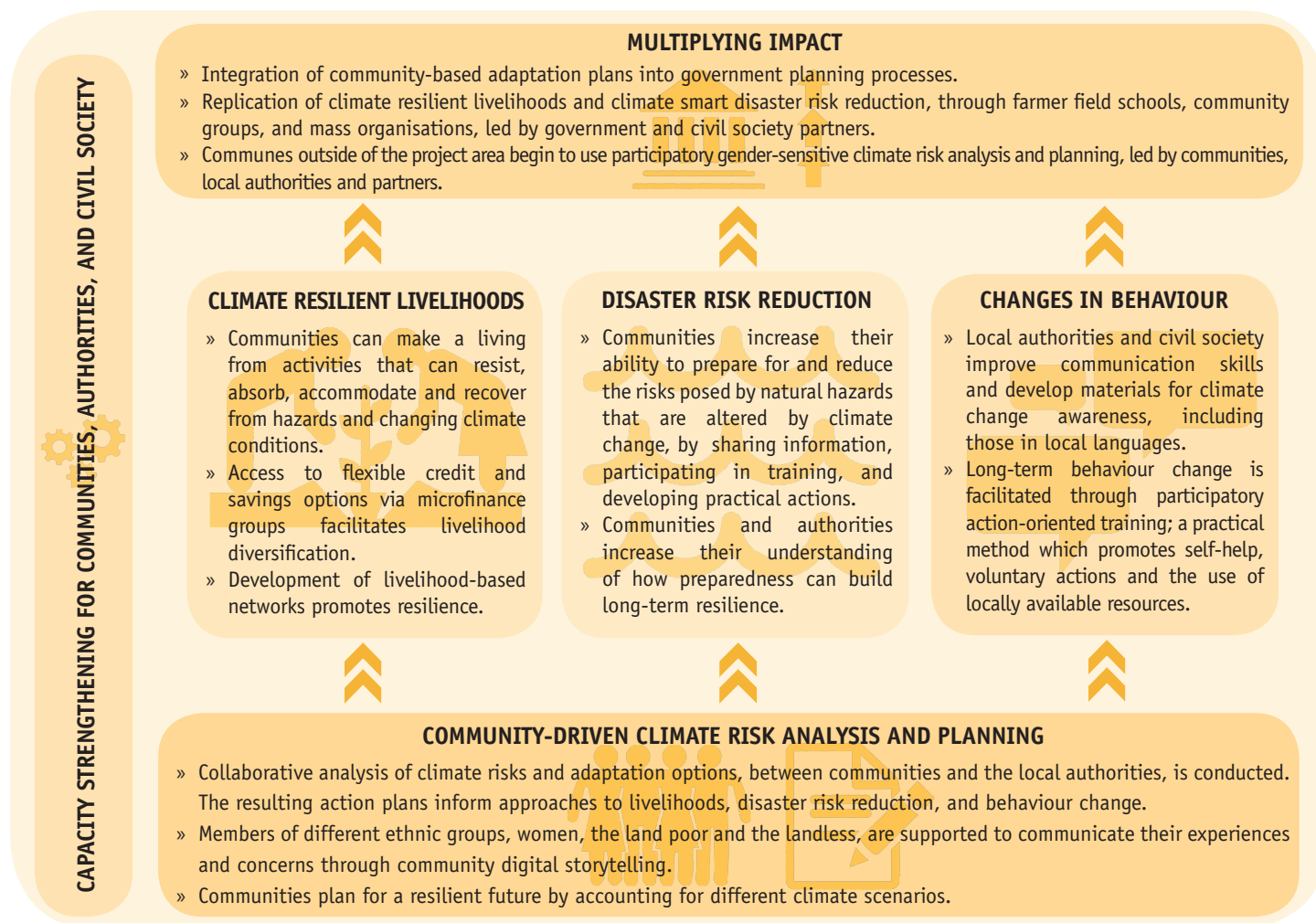
have joined the CARE-initiated Southern Climate Change Working Group, which facilitates civil society networking, technical capacity building and exchange of good practice in the Mekong Delta.

*Including direct and indirect participants



HOW DOES ICAM WORK?

ICAM uses a gender-sensitive approach to demonstrate how to increase community resilience to climate change and natural hazards, and build the capacity of government and local society.



How does community-driven climate change planning help Thái increase her household income?

Thái, a woman from the Khmer ethnic group, lives in Soc Trang province with her husband and two young sons. As they don't own their own land, Thái takes seasonal jobs such as weeding and harvesting coriander, whilst her husband plants mangroves, or works in construction.

"...because of our lack of income, my husband and I planned to take our oldest son out of school, but he cried and begged us not to."

Changes in the climate in the Mekong Delta have caused Thái's work patterns to become unpredictable, as irregular and extreme weather badly affects the coriander crop. Her income is increasingly unstable, which makes it harder for her to provide for her family.

ICAM works to support Thái, and other women and men like her, to ensure their livelihoods are resilient to climate change. In 2013 and 2014, Thái was invited to participate in a number of community-driven climate change planning meetings, organised by the Women's Union, local government and supported by CARE. At the meetings, Thái learnt about how to plan for the impacts of climate change, including learning about more climate-resilient ways to make a living.

"I learned that hotter weather and drought this year will lead to a shortage of freshwater for farming and household use. I know now that I should also try to save water."

Participating in the meeting motivated Thái to make changes to her life and livelihood; now she listens to the weather forecast more often, so she can plan her work accordingly. She also plans to raise pigs in combination with generating biogas from their manure, and if she succeeds with the pigs, she wants to rent land to grow onions. Her increased earnings will enable her to better support her family, and give them a brighter future.

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