

REPORT ON CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ANALYSIS TRAINING FOR USAID WA-WASH PARTNERS IN GHANA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is an important area for planning, implementation, and sustainability of water supply, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. The USAID West Africa Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program, through CARE (one of the implementing partners) organized in Ghana a four-day training for partners, community members and other stakeholders on climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA). The training was held February 18-21, 2013 at the In-service Training Centre (ISTC) in Wa, Upper West region. The training brought together 17 participants drawn from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Sustainable Integrated Development Services Center (SIDSEC), Irrigation Development Authority (IDA), Belim Wusa Development Agency (BEWDA), New Energy, PRONET North, CARE Ghana, PRUDA and the District Assembly.

The objective of the training was to equip the participants with the skills in CVCA methodology, tools, and analysis to develop climate adaptation strategies. The workshop was facilitated through presentations on climate change concepts, group work and plenary presentations, debate on effects of climate change on food security and a field visit for practical application of the CVCA tool.

The participants were divided into two groups to debate on the effects of climate change on food insecurity and sustainable resource management in Africa. From the debate, group one argued that climate change had adverse effects on food security. Group two on the other hand argued that communities could for instance mitigate the negative effects of climate change by practicing irrigation farming, water harvesting technologies, conservation farming, and use of drought tolerant and fast maturing crop varieties. Despite the adverse effects of climate change on food security, there are measures to reduce the negative effects of climate change. The training covered the climate change related concepts such as mitigation, adaptation, resilience, coping, vulnerability, hazard, disaster, and risks. The CVCA tools used included the seasonal calendar, hazard mapping, resource access, control and vulnerability matrix and Venn diagram.

The key learning points of the workshop were tested in the community of Nambogo in the Nadowli district. The field exercise involved seventy-eight community members (32 men and 45 women). It gathered information on the natural resources available to the community, seasons, and their characteristics, hazards, institutions working in the community, and community's coping and adaptation strategies. The community members identified main resources as animals, land, and a dam. Drought, windstorm, animal diseases, and pests were identified as the major hazards in the community.

The seasonal calendar elaborated the characteristic of the seasons and the activities carried out in each season. The dry season occurs between December and June. It is characterized by increased temperatures, East-West winds, and haze. The major activities in the dry season include harvesting of millet, building and plastering of houses, mulching of yam tendrils, dry season gardening, funeral performances and Easter celebrations. The rainy season occurs between May and September. It is characterized by heavy rains, high humidity, ripening of wild fruits, West-East winds, and hunger period. The major activities in this season are land preparation, planting and tending crops. Harmatan season occurs between September and December. It is characterized by low day and night temperatures and very low humidity. Major activities in the season are harvesting of groundnuts and cutting of grass.

According to the community members, widespread cutting down of trees contributed to climate change as exhibited by occurrences of drought, crop failure, reduction in crop yields, reduction in the water level of the dam, high temperatures and incidences of outbreak of meningitis in the dry season. In response, the communities adopted coping strategies such as migration to Southern Ghana for casual labor in farms during the dry season, small scale gold mining, selling of livestock and collection of shea nuts for processing. Adaptation strategies in the community included petty trading, planting of trees, building, and renovation of houses with quality materials, provision of timely agricultural extension services. Institutions working in the community include the Ghana Education Service, the District Assembly, the Ghana Health Service, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, CRS, Oxfam, CARE Ghana, Pronet, the Chief, World Vision International, Member of Parliament, Assembly Members and a youth association.

The field trip to the community of Nambogo served to demonstrate the use of CVCA tools in collecting information on climate change, its effects on the community and community adaptation and coping strategies. This information serves as a basis in the development of the community based adaptation plans.

The full report is available (in English) upon request via our website. For more details about our program activities and other reports please visit <http://wawash.fiu.edu/>.

This publication was funded by the people of the United States through the Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Agency for International Development of the United States Government.