



Partners for Resilience 2016-2020

Philippines

The Partners for Resilience is an alliance of five Netherlands-based humanitarian, development and environmental organizations, and our local and national partners. We are an alliance of varied expertise: disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration. We strive to combine our individual expertise to bring lasting improvement in the lives of the most vulnerable in society – these include communities who are at high risk of being affected by natural hazards, as well as those who live in conflict areas.

Our vision

is to empower vulnerable communities and other local advocates to strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of many vulnerable communities, connecting this to government and private sector priorities and investments, and to support economic growth that is inclusive and sustainable.

We support communities in strengthening their resilience towards these risks:

- natural and human induced hazards
- the adverse impacts of climate change
- damaged or over-used ecosystems

We strive to combine our respective strengths to reduce these risks through integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Environmental Management and Restoration (EMR) interventions. This combination of different disciplines enables an innovative approach: disaster risk reduction is applied in a way that not only looks at current and immediate risks, but also future risks to which climate change is a defining factor. Furthermore, at a geographical scale, this approach looks beyond the community and instead, applies a landscape view, looking at the role of ecosystems, not only related to disaster risk, but also for livelihood benefits. Thus, we call this approach of integrating DRR, CCA and EMR - Integrated Risk Management (IRM).

IRM integrates the urgent attention needed to tackle changing risks due to changes in hazards, exposure and vulnerability, and the critical role which ecosystem degradation plays, locally and in the wider landscape in impacting communities' coping capacities to bounce back when hazards strike. These ecosystem functions and services are impacted by developments at local, regional, national and even supra-national levels. Developments come in many forms; community behaviour, larger scale economic development, climatic processes and events. Scientific and traditional knowledge of changing risk patterns on short, medium and long timescales can also enhance decision-making and financing in both humanitarian and development programming.

What are the benefits of Integrated Risk Management?

Informed planning from national to local government levels which in turn leads to:

- reduced loss of life and assets during a natural or human induced disaster
- restored, improved and diversified livelihoods of vulnerable communities
- responsible investment and sustainable development
- healthier environments to sustain improved lives and economies

Left: Community coastal enforcement team in Nglos and Baras work on a protection plan for fishery and marine habitats; Right: Pagnamitan children water vegetables in school garden (Photo: Cordaid)



Our history

In 2010, the Netherlands Red Cross, CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Wetlands International, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, formed a global alliance to reduce the impact of hazards on vulnerable communities. We named the global alliance, the Partners for Resilience (PfR) and since 2011, have received funding support from the Netherlands Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 2011 and 2015, PfR supported communities in nine lower and lower-middle income countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Uganda, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Indonesia, the Philippines and India.

The five organizations cooperated in a partnership to manage the issues on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR), in an integrated manner. This in turn was aimed at achieving these objectives: strengthening community resilience, and increasing community capacity and policy dialogue at all levels. Through work on ecosystem and climate-based risk reduction, PfR reached more than half a million people in the nine countries.

In the Philippines, successes of the PfR 2011-2015 programme include the following:

- conducting the reforestation of the La Mesa watershed upstream of the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros (MANATUTI) River Basin in the National Capital Region, combined with effective solid waste management downstream, which led to benefits of protecting a water source for communities, augmenting livelihoods, and reducing the risk of flooding faced by communities living downstream.
- working with five city Local Government Units along the MANATUTI River Basin in the National Capital Region to collectively address the problem of flooding faced by communities.
- conducting livelihoods diversification projects in locations such as Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas and Valenzuela city in Metro Manila to tackle food insecurity and to strengthen livelihood resilience.
- integrating ecosystem management and restoration in a cash-for-work post flood emergency programme, thus contributing towards disaster prevention.
- collaborating with the private sector to harmonise a basin-wide flood early warning system in Manila and enhance community and workplace preparedness.
- developing a manual of tools for use when conducting participatory risk assessments in communities.
- using innovative approaches to build awareness and understanding on DRR, CCA and EMR through the use of checklists or minimum standards for climate smart and ecosystem-based DRR programming and through the use of serious games.

Left: mangrove seedlings; Right: five years later (Photo: CARE)



Partners for Resilience 2016-2020: the next five years

Between 2016 and 2020, the PfR Alliance will seek to build capacity in policy dialogue to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Management and Restoration in planning, policies and programmes of national, provincial and municipal governments and the private sector in 10 countries around the world, including the Philippines. The PfR Alliance in the Philippines will over the next five years, seek to empower vulnerable communities and other local advocates to strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of many vulnerable communities, connecting this to government and private sector priorities and investments, and support economic growth that is inclusive and sustainable. We do this with the support of the Netherlands Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including funding totaling EUR 4.2 million. Our new five year programme marks the shift of focus from project implementation at community level in previous programming, towards building capacity for humanitarian dialogue, partnerships and knowledge.

Our stakeholders

- Government (from barangay to national levels)
- Civil society including national NGOs, faith-based, community-based, and people's organizations
- Business sector

Our partners

Organized citizens and institutionalized civil society organizations (CSOs) constitute an essential force in any mature society, at all levels – from the community to the global. The contribution of CSOs in their roles as critical friend, service provider, activist, advocate, facilitator and communicator, serves to hold the government and the private sector accountable for their actions towards citizens, making their interest and will manifest. At the same time, they make these citizens more aware and better informed of IRM practices. In this regard, PfR is happy to work with many partners in the Philippines - they include the Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD), the Philippine Red Cross, the National Caritas of the Philippines (NASSA) and local diocesan partners, Ecoweb, Samdhana, the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, the Zoological Society for London, and the Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (Phildhrra).

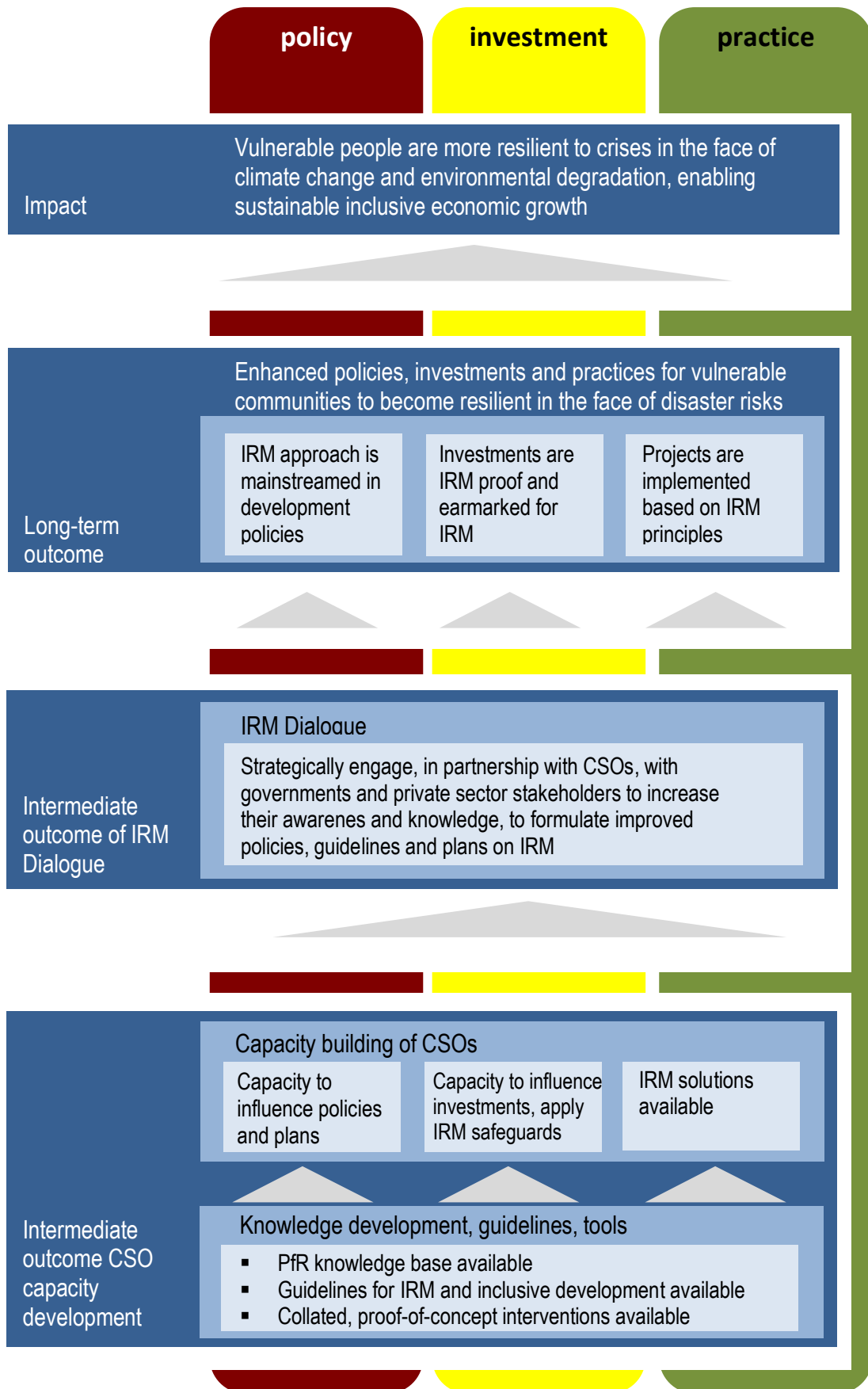
Geographical area

The efforts of the Alliance extends from river basins - such as the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros (MANATUTI) River Basin in Manila and the Agusan River Basin in Mindanao - and water catchments covering multiple provinces, to small island and coastal communities in Eastern Samar and Coron in Palawan, Surigao del Norte in Mindanao, and highly exposed coastal urban areas such as Tacloban-Palo in Leyte. Apart from these specific locations, certain components of our five year programme will also have a nationwide impact.

National and regional policy efforts

The policy agendas of the Partners for Resilience are well aligned with global initiatives such as the three international agreements of 2015 comprising the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – agreed upon at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Accordingly, Partners for Resilience, will strive to ensure that its efforts contribute towards the Philippine Government's commitments towards these initiatives through national and regional mechanisms.

Integrated Risk Management: the way forward





Left: Seaweed farmers plant seedlings in Calico island (Photo: Cordaid); Right: Mangrove replanting in Surigao del Norte (Photo: Netherlands Red Cross); Front Cover: Alternative livelihoods to address food insecurity (Photo: Cordaid)

Contact us

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