



**Name of Event: [Side Event] Partners for Resilience – A New Partnership**

**Date of Event: May 10, 2011**

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**Organizers: CARE, Cordaid, Wetlands International, Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Climate Centre**

**Speakers:**

- Mrs. Yoka Brandt, Director General of the Netherlands Ministry of International Cooperation (DGIS)
- Madeleen Helmer, Red Cross Climate Centre
- Saleh Abdullah, from INSIST, Cordaid partner in Indonesia
- Sinkinesh Jimma, Cordaid Ethiopia
- Maya Schaerer, Red Cross in Nicaragua
- Mamadou Traore, Secretary General of Malinese Red Cross

**1) Overview**

“Partners for Resilience” (PfR) is a unique cooperation on integrated Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Management and Restoration. Five leading Netherlands-based humanitarian, development and environmental organizations (Red Cross NL, CARE NL, Cordaid, Red Cross Climate Centre and Wetlands International), with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have joined forces for the next five years to reduce the impact of natural hazards on vulnerable communities in nine countries in three continents.

**2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

The session was introduced by showing a short video “Partners for Resilience, a new collaboration for resilience”.

Main points raised during the discussion:

- All speakers emphasized that the strength of this alliance is that the five organisations participating in the partnership have their own expertise: Cordaid,

CARE and the Red Cross in the community based work, Red Cross Climate Centre in scientific knowledge about climate change and Wetlands International in managing and restoring ecosystems. These expertises combined will assure a comprehensive approach.

- The partners have the following expectations for the coming two years:
  - Communities made resilient to risks like drought, floods, hurricanes and other climate related disasters;
  - Being able to scale up activities;
  - Being able to influence government policies on climate change, risk and ecosystem management.
  
- Expectations of the audience with regards to the alliance:
  - Less duplication of practices but one manual and one way of communicating about what is done, so other organization keep the oversight on what is done in the field of DRR, Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Management and Restoration;
  - Assistance to grassroots-organisations;
  - New ways of working with communities really develop a partnership with them.
  
- Key factors for a successful partnership, according to the partners for resilience:
  - Good management. The experience was that that the development of the content and the management was extremely challenging.
  - Moving the synergy, energy and collaboration from the Head Quarters in the Netherlands to the local partners was not always easy and this was extremely underestimated.
  - It is recommendable to make a joint field trip with partners to point out in the field what could be the contribution of the other partners while looking at what is being done already.

### **3) Conclusions**

Closing by PfR Coordinator Raymond Duijsens: It was a very, valuable session and was good to hear from the partners the results they see which was echoed in the room. He expressed hope that in the next GP in 2012 the alliance will be able to show what the results are of this partnership by then. Thanks for attendance and presences.