



ECRP Consortium

ADVOCACY QUARTERLY REPORT
Q2/Y2 Jan-Mar 2013

Submission date: April 2013

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Submitted by Christian Aid on behalf of the ECRP and Discover Consortia
To: DFID, Irish Aid and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

ECRP and DISCOVER's advocacy work is coordinated by CEPA who are in turn managed by Christian Aid-led ECRP PMU. Advocacy work falls on two outputs: 3 and 5 of the overall DFID ECRP programme. During the quarter, CEPA continued to make significant achievements. Key included the following:

- The media roster was updated to reflect changes that had taken place.
- Involved the media practitioners in a number of activities, among others, the development of articles for the climate change supplement in the Nation Newspaper and in the DISCOVER joint field day. Some materials from the field day were published by the media
- CEPA facilitated awareness of the world wetland day on 2nd February 2013. This brought together a wide range of experts for a debate on the Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation-Television Malawi.
- CEPA participated in an MBC programme on climate change and disaster risk management following an invitation from MBC-TVM. The programmes were aired on MBC _TVM more than six times.
- Climate change supplement: In addition to CEPA's own climate change supplement, CEPA coordinated the production of a climate change supplement for ECRP and DISCOVER. This supplement focused on building resilience and they appeared in the the Nation Newspaper on 7th March 2013. CEPA also supported, Nation Publication Limited (NPL) with materials to produce articles for the supplement.
- Facilitated media engagement in processes advocating for approval of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy as well as for increased allocation of Assistant District Disaster Risk Management Officers (ADDRMOs) in districts.
- Supported media practitioners' participation in the launch of disaster risk management platform as well as during the consultative meeting on the draft disaster risk management bill .
- Maintained contacts with climate change related institutions and processes: DoDMA, consultants developing the National Climate Change Policy.
- Updated ECRP and DISCOVER materials onto CEPA website. However, not much updating was done.

Despite the above progress, some activities did not progress at the pace expected. These include:

- Advocacy on significant file for conservation agriculture: the Draft NAP is still at redrafting stage. CEPA is therefore considering taking a different approach in advocating for conservation agriculture.
- Slow progress on district advocacy work: this is partly attributed to limited capacity by partners in advocacy but also due to lack of specific budgets for advocacy at district level by partners. It also needs to be noted that partners focussed more on the implementation of the many interventions with the communities. It will be in the next quarters that they will be able to devote more time on advocacy work.

2.1. ADVOCACY GOAL

The overall goal of the advocacy component is:

'Strengthened DRM and Climate Change Policy, programmes and delivery structures of key government ministries and departments' This will contribute to DFID's overarching goal of 'contributing to the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi.'

2.2 ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

The advocacy objectives of the ECRP/DISCOVER advocacy work are as follows:

1. Government to enhance coherence between CC and DRM policy instruments and implementation by 2015;
2. Government to increase budgetary allocations for CC and DRM from 0.9% to at least 2% by 2015¹;
3. A revised Energy Policy by 2015 that reflects an integrated approach to rural energy provision, combining different renewable, efficient and equitable solutions to provide village energy supply systems to meet both domestic and SME resilience-building needs;
4. An enhanced climate forecasting service that supports resilience-building by 2014;
5. Government to provide significant profile and priority to Conservation Agriculture (CA) the draft on National Agricultural Policy (NAP) to provide direction and guidance by 2015; and
6. Climate change adaptation and DRM plans and interventions at national, district and community level are gender sensitive.

CEPA's interventions, among others, target the government sectors, legislatures, implementing partners, the media practitioners and the community.

3. QUARTERLY PROGRESS

Activity Number	Activity / sub activities	Target for the quarter	Actual Achievement during the quarter	Explanation of variance and gender disaggregated data where possible
Output 3: Strengthened information sharing by different stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation. (including district and national level governments, research institutions and CSOs)				
3.1	Capacity building and engagement with media practitioners			
	Develop and maintain roster of media practitioners engaged in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management reporting	One and shared	One,	Roster now has 22 members (10 males and 10 females), a reduction from 23. One media practitioner was dropped following realisation that he is a freelance.
	Facilitate media and community interaction on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management practices	Two districts	Two districts: Balaka and Chikwawa.	This was during the ECRP/DISCOVER joint field days

¹ The 2011/12 National Budget Analysis revealed the budget trends for various sectors. For example leading sectors like Agriculture showed an annual increase of at least, an average of 2%, hence the extrapolation for CC Budget. The full report is available on www.cepa.org.mw;

Activity Number	Activity / sub activities	Target for the quarter	Actual Achievement during the quarter	Explanation of variance and gender disaggregated data where possible
3.2	Knowledge and information sharing with national and district level institutions on climate change			
	Establish and maintain formal links of communication with the appropriate national level institutions responsible for climate change, disaster risk management and related issues			
	Participate in CISONCEC meetings, TLS, PCM, TMC, SMC and other relevant climate change national level forums like (NTCCC/NCCP/DCCMS/DODMA)	Regular updates and contributions, number of meetings	CEPA maintained almost all established linkages.	CEPA participated in more forums than planned.
	Update website	Three updates	Three updates made onto CEPA website	Among other materials uploaded was the DISCOVER quarter 1) report; ECRP's report was submitted to CEPA a bit late
	Development of ECRP bulletin	one	Still in progress.	Materials were already collected, just waiting compilation now.
3.3	Participate in National Symposium on CCA and DRM	None	CEPA and CISONCEC participated in the DRM platform launch	
3.4	Review and evaluation of the climate change advocacy strategy			
	Conduct annual assessment of policy implementation for enhancing community resilience	One annual assessment	On assessment in progress	This assessment will focus on the period Jan – Dec 2012
	Annual assessment of the advocacy strategy implementation	One	One assessment is in progress and it is being carried out internally by CEPA	
Output 4: Strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate change programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments				
4.1	Capacity building of local structures			
	Develop awareness materials on opportunities for participation in local	Two	In progress	To be completed quarter 3

Activity Number	Activity / sub activities	Target for the quarter	Actual Achievement during the quarter	Explanation of variance and gender disaggregated data where possible
	decision making and policy formulation in the 11 districts			
	Facilitate identification of issues requiring policy response from the communities in the 11 districts	At least two issues per district	Not all district managed to achieve the target. Some of those that failed to achieve targets include Machinga, Balaka, Dedza, Mulanje and Thyolo	The major challenge was limited follow-up actions on identified issues
	Facilitate lobbying sessions with decision makers on identified issues (including contingency plans review, budget allocation, CPCs)	One session per district for all districts	One session in 4 districts (Karonga, Nsanje Chikwawa and Kasungu.	The Nsanje session was facilitated by GOAL, the Nsanje DISCOVER partner, as they take the lead for both consortia in Nsanje for all district-level activities.
4.2	Development and dissemination of policy briefs on climate change related issues			
	Develop and disseminate policy brief on major policy concerns on enhancing community resilience in Malawi		Dissemination completed; was completed end March 2013	Only a few copies on reserve are available
	Develop and disseminate briefs on status of policy implementation for enhancing community resilience in Malawi based on annual assessment (following the assessment above)	One	None	Production of this brief is awaiting the assessment on policy implementation.
4.3	Engagement with policy and decision makers			
	Dialogue with policy and decision makers on the status of policy implementation for enhancing community resilience in Malawi	One	Not yet done	This will follow the finalization of the assessment report.

Activity Number	Activity / sub activities	Target for the quarter	Actual Achievement during the quarter	Explanation of variance and gender disaggregated data where possible
4.4	Advocacy on significant profile and priority for conservation agriculture in the draft National Agriculture Policy			
	Conduct consultations to establish the status of National Agricultural Policy (NAP): MoAFS and land resources, Technical Secretariat and taskforce	Land resources department, Dodma, Cisanet and NASFAM consulted	Carried out	Policy is still in the re-drafting process, as such, not much has happened. CEPA will continue making follow-up
	Engage with national taskforce on Conservation agriculture	National taskforce on Conservation agriculture engaged	Not done	This is due to the fact that the draft NAP is still at the re-drafting stage
4.5	Advocacy for increased national budgetary allocations for climate change and DRM from 0.9% to at least 2%			
	Conduct training for partners' advocacy focal points on budget analysis	One	Not done. Instead, CEPA will concentrate on hand-holding partners as they do pre-budget consultation processes.	CEPA changed strategies on how to achieve this: partners will receive hands-on support from CEPA to conduct district pre-budget consultation processes unlike the classroom training which has not proven to be effective
	Facilitate engagement with district councils, area development committees and village development committees in dialogue in integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in their planning processes	4 districts	In progress in three districts (Karonga, Chikwawa, and Kasungu).	These have made strides in lobbying for mainstreaming of CC and DRM in district planning processes.
	Conduct mid-term Budget Analysis on CA, localized renewable energy provision, CC and DRM at district level	Mid-term budget Analysis conducted	In progress.	Exercise to be finalised in April 2013
	Lobby DPD and ADDRMOs on Contingency plans review budget allocations	On going	In progress with significant strides made in Karonga by Self Help Africa through	

Activity Number	Activity / sub activities	Target for the quarter	Actual Achievement during the quarter	Explanation of variance and gender disaggregated data where possible
			their partner, FOCUS.	
	Facilitate lobbying session amongst CPCs, ADDRMOs and project/District Managers on Contingency plans review budget allocation	On going	In progress with some partners such as Self Help Africa through their partner FOCUS, registering significant progress	
4.6	Advocacy for an enhanced coherence between CC and DRM policy and implementation			
	Prepare and publish position paper for National Climate Change Policy	Position paper disseminated	In progress	This was a carry-over activity from Sept – Dec 2012
	Engage the Media to maintain pressure on DoDMA to approve draft NDRM policy (Media tours and dialogues with responsible authority)	Media engaged	On going	The DRM platform committee have helped to facilitate achievement of this activity.
	Lobby DoDMA to appoint and maintain ADDRMOs in districts	One lobbying session done	Two lobbying sessions were carried out	
Monitoring, Learning and Coordination				
5.1	Community Based M&E			
	Monitor implementation of advocacy work in districts	11 districts	10 districts were visited by CEPA to monitor progress of advocacy work.	The visit involved 10 partners (DISCOVER: 2 partners; ECRP: 8 partners)

Progress per output- Narrative

Output 3: Strengthened information sharing by different stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation. (including district and national level governments, research institutions and CSOs)

Media practitioner's roster was updated. However, this has not yet been uploaded onto the website. The roster currently has 22 media practitioners (10 males, 10 females) whose contacts are up to date. One media practitioner was removed from the list because he resigned

from the media house. This roster has been of help beyond ECRP, it is also helping to cover three other projects² within CEPA.

The media have been engaged at various forums and processes: during the climate change supplement preparations in Balaka, during the ECRP/DISCOVER joint field day (Balaka and Chikwawa from 25-27 March); during the stakeholders world wetland day on 2nd February 2013; during the launch of the DRM platform; and during a Climate change, energy and DRM programme organised by MBC (was aired on MBC radio for more than six times). Some of the stories from these processes are provided as annexes.

During the quarter, CEPA was nominated as a member of the Disaster Risk Management Platform. This is a great opportunity for ECRP and DISCOVER as it will facilitate easy access and channelling of issues related to CC and DRM to relevant authorities and stakeholders.

CEPA continued to maintain most of the contacts and links on CC and DRM that have been established. Key among these were links with DoDMA, National Technical Committee on Climate Change, the consultants that are developing the National Climate Change Policy, Total Land Care, Land Resources Conservation department, NASFAM, District Councils on budgeting issues, UNDP, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, and many others. Links have also been maintained with CISONNEC. During the launch of the DRM platform, CISONNEC greatly helped to amplify the voice from ECRP and DISCOVER. For example, as the CISONNEC chairperson was stating advocacy messages on disaster risk management during the DRM platform launch, he also included messages from ECRP more especially on the need for creation of a separate vote for disaster management.

CEPA has also been actively involved in making comments to the draft National Climate Change Policy at many stages. CEPA also participated in various meetings (technical and management) organised by ECRP and DISCOVER where progress on advocacy has been shared.

CEPA continued to receive support from Mango. During the quarter, Mango visited CEPA following up on level of implementation on the agreed actions from the previous visits. CEPA emerged one of the few organisations that have implemented a significant number of MANGO recommended actions, for example, devising ways of accountability to beneficiaries. CEPA has indicated this trend will continue.

Significant amount of work has also been done in updating the CEPA website with ECRP and DISCOVER related materials. Some materials that have been uploaded include DISCOVER quarterly report, news on some policies like the climate change policy processes and on the world wetland day. On a positive note, it has been noted that more and more new viewers continue to view this website.

² These internal programmes include: Civil Society Engagement in Policy processes funded by Tilitonse; Active Participation of Communities in Management of Mwanza River Catchment for Sustainable Livelihoods in Community Economic Improvement Projects; and *WATER FUTURES: Towards Equitable Resource Strategies* with Scottish government's grant sourced from its Climate Justice Fund under the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) secure livelihood program.

Despite this progress, some activities on this output remained uncompleted. These include production of an ECRP and DISCOVER bulletin and an assessment exercise of the ECRP/DISCOVER advocacy strategy. These will be completed during the next quarter.

Output 5: Strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate change programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments

During the quarter, CEPA started an assessment exercise of the level of implementation of climate change and DRM related policies started. A number of sectors and institutions have already been consulted and they include Department of Environmental Affairs; Land Resources Department; Ministry of Climate Change and Meteorological Services; Greenbelt Initiative; Disaster Management Affairs; umbrella civil society networks on agriculture, environment and climate change (namely CISANET, CURE and CISON ECC). By the reporting period, a report on findings of the assessment was under preparation. This report will be shared with stakeholders and policy makers during the next quarter. Final findings of the exercise will be organised into a policy brief.

Preparatory work to conduct mid-year national budget review (2012/2013) started. By the reporting period, shortlisting of potential consultants to carry out this work had been done. The actual budget review will be done in the next quarter. Findings from the review plus findings from districts and from previous reports will form part of CEPA's submission paper for the ministers' pre-budget consultations scheduled in April. Key issues in the paper to be submitted include calls for creation of a separate vote for DRM; provision of resources for renewable energy and reducing tariffs on solar energy devices; increasing resources towards climate change; and up-scaling conservation agriculture.

At district level, partners continued to identify advocacy issues requiring response. However, they (partners) indicated that many such issues are not properly documented. Some advocacy issues identified include the lack of climate change management structures in GVHs outside programme focus (in Kasungu), existence of poor curvets in Chikhwawa which was affecting beneficiaries' crop fields of the through overthrowing of rainy water, the need for review and development of contingency plans as well as limited budget for this. On the other hand, not much has been done by partners on lobby work on these issues. ECRP, DISCOVER and CEPA have already discussed this challenge with partners. Among others, partners have been requested to ensure that they allocate some resources for advocacy from their own budgets.

CEPA supported the media to engage Disaster Risk Management Authorities for approval of the draft DRM policy and to increase allocation of ADDRMOs to all districts. The media were also supported to take part in the National Disaster Risk Management Platform launch. Work by these media significantly contributed in profiling the platform and ensuring that many stakeholders are aware of its existence. A publication by one of the journalists can be accessed from www.preventionweb.net/english/email/url.php?eid=31521.

On this output, some activities that have seen slow progress: the development of awareness materials for advocacy was not completed; work on advocating for conservation agriculture stalled as the draft NAP is still in the re-drafting process.

4. MAINSTREAMING OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

4.1. Gender

CEPA continued to taking deliberate efforts to ensure that gender is taken into in programme implementation. The media roster, for example, has 50%/50% gender representation.

4.4. Transparency and Accountability

CEPA continues to adhere to mango recommendations which include sharing of the budget, having the project person as the budget holder and being accountable to the beneficiaries. Further ECRP has focused on the importance of the implementation of the HAP principles

5. LESSONS AND CONSTRAINTS

5.1 Major lessons learnt

5.1.1 Technical (planning through implementation) lessons learnt

It has been learnt that whilst the continued requirement for CEPA to attend to state policy processes may be viewed as affecting normal operations for ECRP/DISCOVER activities, CEPA's participation in these processes gives them (CEPA) an opportunity to lobby for some priority issues advanced by ECRP and DISCOVER

CEPA has learnt that a class room-based training only is not sufficiently effective to help developing partners' capacity in advocacy but other efforts such as hands-on support for the partners with advocacy activities in their districts. As such, CEPA decided not to go ahead with the training for advocacy focal points on the national budget analysis. Instead, CEPA decided to engage the partners in pre-budget consultations so that partners can have hands-on experience.

Lack of a separate budget for advocacy by implementing partners has been found to be affecting implementation of district based advocacy work. ECRP and DISCOVER has therefore resolved to ensure that partners allocate enough resources for advocacy in their budgets. This is in view of the fact that advocacy is a core component of both consortia work.

5.1.8 Government and other stakeholders cooperation lessons learnt

Recently, CEPA has noted increasing recognition by Government on the role development partners and civil society play in supplementing government efforts on policy development. CEPA plans to take advantage of this and give maximum input into various policies related to climate change and DRM.

5.2 Major constraints and actions taken

CONSTRAINT/CHALLENGES	ACTIONS TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN	SUPPORT REQUIRED FROM PMU/TECHNICAL LEADS/TECHNICAL PARTNERS
5.2.1. Technical related constraints		
Too many national level meetings that require CEPA's attendance, many of them not budgeted for.	CEPA will take a proactive approach so that they can know well in advance the various meetings that will be taking place	None
Limited progress on district based advocacy work by partners	CEPA strengthened monitoring of district advocacy work so that bottlenecks can be identified in good time	

		CEPA has also resolved to create an additional position of Programme Officer. This will increase CEPA's capacity to adequately support partners.	
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6. MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

CEPA has created an additional position of Programme Officer. By the reporting period, recruitment process was in progress. This additional position follows recommendations from annual review of advocacy carried out in Feb 2013.

7. UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

RISKS IDENTIFIED	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER AFFECTED	MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED
Slow progress of government process may delay implementation of other key activities, for example, advocacy on conservation agriculture	CEPA	CEPA to continue making follow-ups and taking appropriate strategies

8. MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Main activities for the next quarter will include the following:

Output 3: Strengthened information sharing by different stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation. (including district and national level governments, research institutions and CSOs)

- Facilitating media and community interaction on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction practices.
- Establish and maintain formal links of communication with the appropriate national level institutions responsible for climate change, disaster risk management and related issues
- Updating CEPA website with ECRP and DISCOVER related materials
- Coordinating preparation for ECRP and DISCOVER's participation in national agriculture fair
- Development of ECRP and DISCOVER bulletin
- Annual assessment of policy implementation for enhancing community resilience in Malawi

Output 5: Strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate change programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments

- Developing of awareness materials on opportunities for participation in decision making
- Supporting partners on district-based advocacy work
- Continue lobbying for conservation agriculture profile in NAP
- Conducting 2012/13 mid-term budget analysis and 2013/14 National budget analysis
- Lobbying for reasonable budget allocations on climate change related sectors
- Continue lobbying work for approval of DRM policy