

## Swiss Red Cross – Story of Interest – Modell Pledge “Building resilience in a changing climate”

### Facts and Figures:

In collaboration with the Host National Societies, the SRC is (currently) implementing 19 community-based DRM projects in 14 programme countries. Six projects apply a standalone CBDRM methodology; 13 have a broader approach with a resilience oriented focus, integrating DRR and CCA with health and/or WASH.

Number of beneficiaries in disaster risk reduction

	2017	2018
<b>Total DRR beneficiaries</b>	<b>303,820</b>	<b>242,845</b>
DRR awareness	167,486	137,551
Early warning systems	166,907	134,353
Risk mitigation	76,280	82,871
DRR education	28,156	23,969
DRR committees supported	563	358

### Story of interest (inclusive Video, cf. link):

#### *Good practice: the “Productive Protective System” in Haiti*

The “Productive Protective System” is a newly introduced method in **Haiti** which includes the integration of socio-permaculture concepts to reduce the population's exposure and vulnerability through measures that directly target the living environment. The system is based on the “Terra Preta” hill garden technology as the foundation and includes other components such as raised gardens, edible fences, vertical gardens, climbing plants and animal breeding. The plants used are banana, vine basket, “Malabar” spinach, leaf cabbage, sugar cane, small fruits by layering, etc. which are almost exclusively of perennial nature. They are managed according to organic models and involve minor maintenance activities until harvest. The animal protein production (e.g. rabbit in a cage) closes the natural cycle of chemical elements. If applied altogether the system allows for a shift from simple vegetable gardening to permaculture nano farming. In addition to the nutritional, ecological and economic benefits, the system offers a protection component by integrating local risk mitigation measures (e.g. soil-bioengineering). For detailed information, refer to the video [Productive Protective System](#) of the SRC.

The combination of production and protection in particular triggers a greater interest of the local population for application which adds for the sustainability of the measures put in place. It is creating a similar level of ownership and replication as the ongoing soil conservation and organic agriculture measures. The two main disadvantages mentioned by the communities are the need for higher reflective and technical skills for the application and the fruiting time which greatly exceeds other simple vegetable gardens. The method also aroused the interest of development partners, such as the Italian and Spanish Red Cross and Caritas Switzerland whose staff benefitted from a two day training course offered by the SRC.

### Lessons learnt

- **Preparedness:** experience to date highlights the importance of building on and working with existing local structures for sustainably strengthening the DRM system. As a minimum standard, CBDRM programming must imply working simultaneously at the community and local authority level.
- **Mitigation:** contribution of communities and local authorities increases ownership and sustainability of measures. To ensure maintenance, focus must be on affordable and environmentally sound

solutions that are technically adapted to local skills and based on locally available materials. As a minimum standard, CBDRM programming must insist on in-cash or in-kind contribution of all major stakeholders.

- **DRR and CCA mainstreaming:** government institutions must be involved in the capacity building of their staffs (e.g. education, health) at the local level for increased sustainability of mainstreaming measures. As a minimum standard, the SRC ensures that ensures that all (health, WASH, reconstruction etc.) infrastructure constructed or repaired with SRC support is climate and hazard-resilient.

Pictures: attached

- Haiti1, copyright: SRK, Florian Kopp