

## **Title: Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED)**

### **Background**

Poor people are the most vulnerable to climate-related disasters and extremes such as droughts, storms, floods and landslides, and the IPCC has found evidence that these extremes are increasing in frequency and severity as the climate changes<sup>1</sup>.

The poor often live in vulnerable locations (e.g. such as steep slopes or riversides at high risk from landslides and flooding), so are exposed to greater risk, in addition to being the least able to prepare and respond.

In the past 20 years, 1.3 million people have been killed by weather extremes and disasters, 4.4 billion have been affected, and \$2 trillion has been lost<sup>2</sup>, however uncounted impacts in low-income households could be as much as \$3 trillion<sup>3</sup>. By 2030, there could be 325 million people trapped in poverty and vulnerable to weather-related events in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia<sup>4</sup>.

The damage climate extremes do to homes, businesses and health exacerbates poverty, preventing those who are already poor from escaping from poverty, and tipping the vulnerable over the edge.

### **Theme**

BRACED is supporting the scale up of activities that build resilience (adaptation) to weather extremes and reduce the risk of disasters at the grassroots level. It is also building evidence on what works to inform improved policies and will support national, regional and international organisations to prepare for the expected increases in the frequency and severity of climate extremes.

### **Local Context**

BRACED is supporting the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, by focussing on: reducing poverty and hunger, ensuring access to clean water, securing livelihoods, building resilient cities and infrastructure and promoting peace. BRACED is working in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) and 7 other countries in Africa and Asia (Burma, Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda).

We know that we have to address climate risks as part of our wider efforts to support those living in fragile countries, such as in the Sahel where people are struggling with the combined effects of poverty, climate change and violence.

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 IPCC "Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events (SREX) and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation

<sup>2</sup> UNISDR (June 2012) <http://www.unisdr.org>

<sup>3</sup> UNISDR (2013). Global Assessment Report

<sup>4</sup> Shepherd *et al.* (2013). The geography of poverty, disasters and climate extremes in 2030. ODI, Met Office Hadley Center, RMS Publication. Exeter.

By bringing together expertise in climate, humanitarian and developmental sectors, BRACED aims to address the complex mix of short-term and long-term problems in an integrated way and support people to graduate out of the need for humanitarian assistance.

### **What is being done?**

We are working directly at the local level, targeting the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable countries. BRACED projects are creating new coalitions of civil society, private sector, government agencies, media organisations, universities and meteorological offices in order to build community resilience, and using this to strengthen national and international planning. These projects will bring in new private sector investment to remote rural areas, partner national meteorological offices with broadcasters to disseminate climate information to those who need it most, and work closely with governments, especially at the local level, to strengthen their capacity to manage a growing number of risks. £100 million has been committed to these projects between 2013 and 2017 to test and scale up activities that build resilience to climate shocks. After an intensive period of piloting, research and partnership building, 15 projects started work in January 2015.

BRACED projects cover a wide range of issues, from securing, servicing and promoting trans-border livestock mobility across the Sahel, to sharing skills and technology to improve uptake of climate information in Ethiopia, to supporting smallholder farmers in Nepal to take advantage of economic opportunities and investments in climate-smart technologies.

In addition to piloting and scaling up solutions on the ground, BRACED is making a major investment (£9.5m) in knowledge, evidence and lesson learning to meet the urgent need to improve global understanding of how best to address climate extremes and integrate this into disaster risk reduction, particularly in fragile states. Evidence from the BRACED portfolio and beyond will be gathered through evaluations, thematic research, and original learning approaches.

### **Expected Results**

BRACED is expected to directly support 2.5 million people, especially women and children, to cope with the impacts of extreme climate events and indirectly support an additional 3 million.

Longer term, BRACED will benefit many millions more by improving how climate change is addressed in wider risk management approaches enhancing integration in policies and practice. BRACED will also seek to assess how the resilience of those people being supported has improved over the programme lifetime.

### **Links to Further Info**

<http://www.braced.org/about-the-project/>