

## ***Building community resilience to climate change effects***

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Since the 1970s a new concern about unusual and rapid changes in the world's weather started among scientists discussions. Our Globe today is getting warmer and warmer, due to the increment of greenhouse gas emissions. The consequences of this include climate change and disasters that continually destroy lives with lot of budgets spent to manage effects. Although the issue of global warming and climate change became a global concern calling upon discussions of government leaders, scientists, humanitarians and development activists, this continue to constitute a threat and challenge at global level but also at local level where communities are facing effects like; severe weather events resulting in droughts and floods, effects on agriculture, animals and sea life, water shortage and effects to human health caused by vector-borne diseases and water- borne diseases. Then it is seen that communities are much exposed to climate change with associated ecological effects that have a devastating impact to people's lives in different parts of the world, particularly in poorer countries. Two main responses are available to respond to climate change. The first response is about reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit further climate change. This is "Mitigation" which involves cutting greenhouse gas emissions of wealthy and rapidly developing countries. It also involves enabling poor countries to develop in a sustainable way without high greenhouse gas emissions. The second response is "Adaptation" which is about helping communities to cope with the impact of climate change. This means communities are required to be enough equipped with knowledge, information, skills and resources for them to be able to identify and use different techniques and mechanisms for an appropriate preparedness and response to climate change.

Our intention to write this paper comes for the purpose of awareness creation and a contribution to the response on climate change. Our focus will be on the second response available which engage community empowerment for resilience to climate change effects. Even though the problem is a global one, the study will be limited to Rwandan communities with possible references from other countries. This is a desk study. We will use different resources such as international and national reports on climate change, previous research reports, official speeches, community members' quotes and testimonies, and other secondary data to introduce the main ways in which communities in Rwanda can build their resilience to climate change effects.