

# CARE Emergency Response Team Learning Exchange



## Objective: Increase Sharing and Learning across Country Office Emergency Response Teams

One of the key components of CARE's Emergency Capacity Building Strategy is **applying and sharing knowledge**. To accomplish this, systems must be put in place to help staff apply and share knowledge, and constantly learn from external best practices. To that end, in FY07, CARE established the Country Office Emergency Response Team (ERT) Learning Exchange, a virtual community of practice. This community allows Country Office ERTs to connect with each other – and experts – through distance technologies (phone, online chat, Elluminate, email) to share information about emergency preparedness and other response-related topics. No longer do participants have to reinvent the wheel. Instead, ERTs now have ready access to peer and expert knowledge as they get to know their emergency colleagues across the globe, develop their own skills and expertise, and have fun in the process!

## Notable FY07 Accomplishments

In the ERT Learning Exchange's first year, there were many exciting events and much enthusiasm. Notable accomplishments included the following:

- Learning more about who our emergency colleagues are and what they do;
- Establishing what we want to learn and share around emergency preparedness and response;
- Learning from CARE Mozambique about their response to the cyclone and floods;
- Chatting online about emergency capacity building and emergency preparedness planning;
- Learning from CARE Ethiopia about the new USAID/OFDA Proposal Guidelines;
- Facilitating a trip for CARE Niger staff to visit CARE Haiti to share knowledge about EPP planning.

To learn more about last year's events, visit the [Emergency Response Learning Exchange](#), or contact Sara Gullo, [sgullo@care.org](mailto:sgullo@care.org), or Joy Shiferaw, [shiferaw@care.org](mailto:shiferaw@care.org) to join the exchange or learn about upcoming events.

## Looking Ahead: FY08 Learning Exchange

In FY08, the Learning Exchange will focus on a series of 6 exchange topics, based on ERT feedback and built upon the Emergency Toolkit. Exchanges will be conducted through distance learning methods, including online chats, live Web conferencing (Web-ex, Elluminate), conference calls, blogs and wikis. This year's focus topics include:

- Disaster Risk Reduction:
- Impact Measurement & Accountability: the Good Enough Guide:
- Media & Information Management in Emergencies
- Roles and responsibilities of the ERT Coordinator and ERT Team:
- Emergency Assessments